

SEVEN SERMONS

by the

VOICE OF PROPHECY



Seven Sermons



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Is There Hope for Backsliders?

A long letter came into my hands some time ago, asking whether there is any hope for backsliders. It had been sent to a minister friend of mine, and reads as follows:

"MY DEAR FRIEND:

"Today my troubles mount up before me in such a way that life appears unbearable, and I appeal to you for advice and help. I am so discouraged in life that I feel it impossible to continue thus. Do you think it a very great sin to put one's self in death's way when one has tried and failed continually, and every day falls deeper into the abyss of hell? I know hell is my doom; it cannot be otherwise. And as I must serve the devil all through eternity, it surely is not a sin to shorten the period of my service to him here.

"Do you think that souls can be lost after they are once saved? From my experience I am almost positive that they can; but I heard a preacher say only recently that if one were truly saved, he could never be lost.

"I still have faith in prayer, though I cannot pray; so I ask you please to remember me in your prayers, and perhaps God may yet have mercy on my soul.

"If it is not asking too much of you, I would like you to express your opinion on these subjects next Sunday.

"Trusting that God will bless you and hear your prayers, I remain,

"Lost."

Our answer is the subject of this address, "Is There Hope for Backsliders?" We will take up the following topics:

1. God's Character
2. Serving the Devil Now and Hereafter
3. Can a Child of God Be Lost?
4. Can a Backslider Return?

We can answer the question only by knowing something of *the character of God*. First we turn to several Old Testament Scriptures:

"Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee." Psalms 86:5.

"Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." Psalms 86:15.

"Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause Thine anger toward us to cease." Psalms 85:4.

So you see that God is a God of love and compassion, and He calls upon His children to come to Him—to return to Him. When Moses was on Mt. Sinai as the Lord had commanded him, "The Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Exodus 34:6, 7.

That is what the Old Testament says about God's character, but I think the greatest answer is found in the most wonderful short story ever written. It is found in the fifteenth chapter of St. Luke. It was told by the Prince of storytellers, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. It is the story of the prodigal son, or rather the story of a forgiving father. Beginning with the eleventh verse we read:

"A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living."

I want you to notice that "he divided unto *them* his living." Both boys evidently received their portion at this time.

"And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want."

It seems that the prosperity of this place depended on the prodigality of this boy; "and he began to be in want."

"And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants."

"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him,

Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

He got no further than that, did he, friends?

"But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

Now that shows you, friends, what God thinks of the backslider. Did you ever stop to think of the great number of backsliders who will be saved? We are all backsliders. We are all saved backsliders, if saved at all. Our first parents were backsliders. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

When this story of God's love and compassion for man was told in China, a woman said, "Haven't I often told you there ought to be a God like that?"

"I, if I belifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." St. John 12:32. The *cross of Christ* is the greatest picture of the *character* of God. He gave His only-begotten Son to die for us. "When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Romans 5:6. Come to the cross and behold its bleeding victim! "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

My friends, if you want to know what your obligations to the Saviour are, come to the cross. If you want to know what your financial obligation to your Saviour is, come to Bethlehem's manger and see God clothed in the flesh; come to the baptismal waters of Jordan and see the dove lighting upon Him and hear the voice of the Father saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." St. Matthew 3:17. Come, take hold of Him, handle Him, sit like Mary at His feet and listen to His divine words. Come to the Passover night and hear Him say, "This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." St. Matthew 26:28. Go with Him down to the depths of dark Gethsemane and hear Him say, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." Verse 38. Go stand with Him before Pilate's judgment seat and see Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled—"He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of

my people was He stricken." Isaiah 53:8. Stand beneath the shadow of His cross wrapped in darkness. See Him forsaken by the disciples and turned over to the dogs of hell. Hear His heart-broken cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" St. Matthew 27:46. Go stand beside His sealed and silent tomb guarded by sixteen Roman soldiers at battle attention for three hours at a time, and see how the prophecy—"He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death" (Isaiah 53:9)—is again fulfilled. Go to the empty tomb on the first day of the week and see the linen clothes and the napkin folded and laid to one side, and hear the angel of the resurrection say, "He is not here: for He is risen." St. Matthew 28:6.

O, my friends, that is what Jacob saw that night at Bethel when he said, "How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Genesis 28:17.

That is what it means to bear the cross; that is what it means to be crucified with Him; that is what it means to walk in His steps; that is what it means to "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." St. Matthew 6:33.

May we today with new and higher resolves than ever before and from the lowest depths of our poor, bleeding, broken hearts say:

"Didst Thou, dear Jesus, suffer shame
And bear the cross for me?
And shall I fear to own Thy name
Or Thy disciple be?

Forbid it, Lord, that I should dread
To suffer shame or loss;
Oh, let me in Thy footsteps tread
And glory in Thy cross.

Inspire my soul with life divine,
And holy courage hold:
Let knowledge, faith, and meekness shine,
Nor love, nor zeal grow cold.

How my soul would rise and run
At this reviving word:
Nor any painful sufferings shun,
To follow Thee, my Lord."

—*Author Unknown.*

That is what it means to bear the cross, to be crucified with Him. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." So take one look at the cross, friends, and you will see what God thinks of the sinner.

Just a word about the prodigal son. When he is there in that city a mighty famine arises. He is sent into the fields to feed swine. He feels the burden of his chains. There are no gay companions now with wine and song. None of the gay companions who ate and drank at his expense are left. Where are the riotous companions now? He thought himself happy, but with his money spent, his hunger unsatisfied, his pride humbled, and his will weakened, he is the most wretched of mortals.

Every sinner who attempts to live apart from God is squandering his substance; he is working to make himself bankrupt for eternity. If you have chosen this kind of life, you are spending money for that which is not bread and labor for that which satisfieth not. (Isaiah 55:2.) There come to you hours in which you realize your degradation. Alone in the far country you feel your misery, and in despair you cry, "O wretched man that I am!" Romans 7:24. A statement of a universal truth is contained in the prophet's words:

"Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." Jeremiah 17:5, 6.

God "maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." St. Matthew 5:45. But men have the power to shut themselves away from sunshine and shower. So while the Sun of Righteousness shines and the showers of grace fall freely for all, we may, by separating ourselves from God, still "inhabit the parched places in the wilderness."

The love of God still yearns over the one who has chosen to be separated from Him, and He sets in operation influences to bring him back to the Father's home. The prodigal son in his wretchedness came to himself. If any prodigal son is listening in, may God hasten the time when you will come to yourself!

The prodigal son, knowing his suffering was the result of his own folly, said, "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise

and go to my father." Miserable as he was, the prodigal found hope in the assurance of his father's love. It was that love which was drawing him home. So it is the knowledge and assurance of God's love that constrains the sinner to return to God. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Romans 2:4. A golden chain—the mercy and compassion of divine love—is passed around every imperiled soul. "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3. Love is of quick sight. The prodigal's father saw him a long way off and came more than halfway to meet him. How different his idea of him now!

In his restless youth the prodigal looked upon his father as being stern and severe, but how different now! Just so are there many today who look upon God as hard and tyrannical, not willing to receive the sinner as long as there is a legal excuse for not helping him, as a god whose law puts a restriction upon man's happiness. But they whose eyes are opened by the love of Christ will see Him as a God of compassion, as a Father longing to embrace His repenting son. They will exclaim in the words of the psalmist:

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." Psalms 103:13. As the prodigal boy felt that the past was forgiven and forgotten, and that his father would not cast it up to him, so it is with God. He says to the sinner, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee." Isaiah 44:22. He will remember them no more forever.

Now let us turn to Isaiah 55:7: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." "Let him return unto the Lord." You cannot return to the Lord if you have not been there once.

A dear old friend of mine used greatly to love this scripture:

"Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities [Notice that.]; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:18, 19.

This old man loved to read that portion of this text which says that God "cast all their sins into the *depths* of the sea," and sometimes he would shout His praises and say, "Hallelujah!" The "amen corner" is almost gone from the church of today.

This man loved to praise God. He had a friend who was a physician, a man of scholarly attainments. When this old man was visiting at the home of his friend, the friend became tired of hearing him shout, "Hallelujah!" and "Amen!" and thought he would try to stop him. He said, "I am going to give him something to read, so that he won't continually be shouting 'Hallelujah!' and 'Praise the Lord!'" So he took the old man into his library, put a voluminous book of scientific explanation before him, and left him to look it over. Not long after, he heard a shout from the library: "O praise the Lord! Hallelujah!" He ran to the library, and there was the old man with tears running down his face. His friend asked the old gentleman what he found in that kind of book to praise the Lord about. The old man replied, "Why, I read here that over near Japan someone found a place in the sea seven miles deep!"

"Well, why are you so happy over a deep place in the ocean?"

"Why," replied the old man, "God says He will cast all my sins into the depths of the sea! Seven miles of water over them! Seven miles of water over them! Praise the Lord!"

What wonderful assurance we have here of God's willingness to receive sinners! Is God willing to receive you? His *character* shows that He is!

Have you chosen your own way? Have you wandered away from God? Have you fed on the fruits of transgression, only to find them turning to ashes? "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, . . . saith the Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 2:19.

We all know that is true. Have you spent your substance, and have the plans of your life all gone awry? Do you feel sad, desolate, and alone? Hear that Voice which comes clear and distinct: "Arise ye, and depart; . . . it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction." Micah 2:10. Return to your Father's house. He invites you, saying, "Return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee." Isaiah 44:22. Do not let your imagination tell you to wait until you are good enough to return to God. If you wait for it to tell

you that, you will *never* come at all. You will *never* be good enough to merit salvation.

“Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him.”

—*Joseph Hart.*

When Satan points to your failings and tries to make you falter and declare that God will not accept you, repeat: “Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.” St. John 6:37. Tell the enemy that “the blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7. Pray the prayer of David: “Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Psalms 51:7.

Dear friend, if you take one step, He will fold you in His arms of infinite love! The very first reaching out of a heart is known to Him! Never is a secret tear shed but that He knows it. The Spirit of God goes forth to meet your cry even before you make known the faintest desire. Grace from Christ goes forth to meet it. Your heavenly Father will take from you the garments defiled by sin. In the beautiful parabolic prophecy of Zechariah, the high priest, Joshua was standing clothed in filthy garments before the angel of the Lord, who said:

“Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. . . . So they set a fair miter upon his head, and clothed him with garments.” Zechariah 3:3-5.

Even so God will clothe you with “the robe of righteousness.” (See Isaiah 61:10.) “Though ye have lain among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold.” Psalms 68:13.

Even so God will clothe you with garments of salvation and will cover you with Christ’s robe of righteousness. His banner over you will be LOVE. (Song of Solomon 2:4.) He will bring you into His banqueting house, even among the holy angels that surround His throne. As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will God rejoice over you. He will rejoice with you, and heaven and earth shall unite in the Father’s song of rejoicing: “For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is

found." St. Luke 15:24. O, backslider, my friend, God loves you! He tells you that in His Word. If you are not with Christ you are with Satan. But you need not serve Satan any longer.

Christ came to destroy the works of the devil. In the hereafter when Jesus comes, the world will be cleansed with fire. Satan and all his works will be destroyed. No one will serve him then. But no one need serve the devil now. (See Hebrews 2:14.) "For evil-doers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yet, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." Psalms 37:9, 10. We may serve God now and have everlasting life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

We should be warned by the sad experience of others. Consider the experience of Saul. He was a converted man. (See 1 Samuel 10:9.) God gave him a new heart, but not only that; the gift of the Holy Spirit was his also. However, in 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14 we read that Saul died in his sins. I am glad there are but few such examples in the Bible. If God's Spirit is still pleading with your heart, and you feel defeated and weary, there is hope for you. But hear His call. Don't quench it; hear it!

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion." Jeremiah 3:14. Evidently God thinks more of a family than of a city. He desires to take a united family into His kingdom.

A backslider can return to God, but what about Hebrews 6:4-8? "It is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away [or, when they fall away], to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame."

That this scripture is not speaking of backsliders is certain; it is talking about apostates—men who had the gift of the Holy Ghost, and then turned and fought God, *blasphemed* Christ, and went over to the side of the devil, just as Judas did. It means those men who have all the evidence of the world to come and of

the divinity of Christ, and then turn and fight the kingdom of God and speak evil of the cross. Whatever fears you may have about the sin about the Holy Ghost, or the unpardonable sin, if you feel that God is calling you to seek Him, you have not committed it.

Hosea 14:4 says, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely." Hosea was written for backsliders. Read it for yourself.

Ezekiel entreats, "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezekiel 33:11. "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all My statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die." Ezekiel 18:21. Let the wicked forsake his ways and return. (Read Isaiah 55:7.)

Then the apostle John said: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. . . ." 1 John 1:9. "Who-soever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17. It is all a gift from God.

A little girl whose mother was desperately ill saved all her pennies to buy flowers. She saw a gardener, and said to him, "Will you sell me some roses for Mother?"

"No," he answered, "there are no roses for sale here."

"My dear," a motherly looking lady said, "what do you wish?"

"Oh, I want to buy some roses for my mamma."

"Come inside the garden, my child."

The lady and the little girl clipped roses and flowers until they had a large bouquet, and then the lady turned to the child and said, "Tell your mother that the queen has no roses for sale, but she has flowers to give away."

It was the good Queen Victoria in her own rose garden.

God has no peace for sale, no righteousness for sale. It cannot be purchased with money, with tears, or with agonizing labors; but it will be given away—if you ask for it in "Jesus' name."

"But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away.
'Tis all that I can do!"

—*Isaac Watts.*

Will you do that just now, friends? Make the surrender now! Will you? May God bless you. God loves you and freely forgives you all because Jesus died to save you. There is no reason why you shouldn't do it now, remember that.

God is more willing to forgive you than you are to forgive your own friends. He is not willing to give you up. It all depends on you. Though He was rich, Christ became poor. He came to save us, unworthy though we are. Are you afraid you will not be accepted; afraid you will not be able to keep out of trouble? He has promised to help and to keep you, and He is willing to do so. "Oh," you say, "I will, but not now. I will procrastinate. I will be like Felix." (Read Acts 24.) But God says, "Now!" Satan says, "Tomorrow!" God says, "Today!" Satan says, "Another day." May God help you this very hour!

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow!" Proverbs 27:1. The Good Shepherd went out into the dark night and the storm for you. He sought the one lost sheep!

"There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills away,
Far off from the gates of gold—
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

" 'Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine ;
Are they not enough for Thee ?'
But the Shepherd made answer : 'One of Mine
Has wandered away from Me,
And although the road be rough and steep,
I go to the desert to find My sheep.'

"But none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed,
Nor how dark was the night that the Lord
passed through
E'er He found His sheep that was lost.
Out in the desert He heard its cry—
Sick and hopeless, and ready to die.

" 'Lord, whence are these blood drops all
the way
That mark out the mountain's track ?' "

Hear the answer :

" 'They were shed for one who had gone astray
E'er the Shepherd could bring him back.'
'Lord, why are Thy hands so rent and torn ?'
'They are pierced tonight by many a thorn.' "

And O, that the last verse may be brought home to our souls!

“But all through the mountains, thunder-riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There rose a cry to the gate of heaven:
‘Rejoice, I have found My sheep!’
And the angels sang around the throne,
‘Rejoice for the Lord brings back His own!’ ”

Now, backsliders, turn, and turn now! This is your hour of opportunity.

The Man That God Forgot

Our theme is the man that God forgot. "Well," you say, "did God ever forget any man?" Yes, He did, and I am very glad He forgot that man. In Isaiah 43:25 we read: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

The Christian can say, "He forgets my old life; He forgets the man I used to be!" Yes, friends, *He forgets the man of sin that we throw off at His feet*. God is a God not only of remembrance but also of forgetfulness. And I am glad He forgets.

The Bible teaches us that when we come to Christ, no matter how sinful our hearts may be, if we come to Him and are willing to keep His commandments and are sincerely repentant—if we come to the light and ask God in the name of Jesus to forgive us—He will forgive us. He will not only forgive, *but He will forget*. And that is called the "new covenant." "This is the covenant that I will make. . . . I will put My laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts: . . . and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 8:10-12.

Finally even the record of our sins will be blotted from the books of heaven, so that when it is sought for it shall not be found. "In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve." Jeremiah 50:20.

But I will show you from the Scriptures that God forgets also in some other ways, ways that are most terrible.

Some people say the law of God is of no avail today, that it was only for a certain time in the past and is now abolished. They do this to avoid the implications of the commandments, to avoid doing something the law commands. Others will say, "The law is abolished;" but God says, "I will write it in their hearts." (Read Jeremiah 31:33.) It is written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit will teach us to know the law—and not only

to know the law, but to know Him—from the least to the greatest.

In the book of Exodus we find that Moses talked with the Lord: "Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book." Exodus 32:31-33.

These people had broken the first commandment. They had worshiped other gods. They had also broken the second commandment: they had bowed down and worshiped idols. Because Moses loved the people, he said to the Lord, "If not, blot me, I pray thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written." He was willing to be blotted out of God's book of life if His people could not be forgiven. He didn't want to be saved without them. He loved them so much he was willing to die with them. So, dear friends, those who have sinned will be blotted out. Their names will be blotted out if they do not repent. It is a solemn thought, dear friends. God says, "Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book." God forbid that we should be blotted from the book of life and be forgotten by the Lord.

In Ezekiel 33 God says that if we ask forgiveness He will not remember our sins. How much better it is to let God forget our sins and to blot them out of His remembrance than to have Him blot our *names* from the Lamb's book of life! Let us see what God says in this chapter: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth."

"When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust in his own righteousness and commit iniquity, all his righteousness shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it." Verses 11-13. What a solemn thought that is, friends.

Even though a man *is* righteous, but at the last falls into sin

and does not keep the commandments, if he refuses to repent of his ways, God will not remember his former righteousness. It will not save him if sin is on his record. He must have God's forgiveness and a pure, clean record. If we sincerely repent, God will forgive, and all our sins will be blotted out. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

Jesus is coming soon, and when He comes preachers will lose their jobs as far as God is concerned; they will no longer need to plead with man to accept Christ, for all will know Him, and their sins and iniquities will He remember no more. "But," you say, "I am afraid He will forget to blot them from His book." No, if you come to Him in repentance He will blot your sins from His book and remember them no more. He will either blot your *sins* from His record or He will blot your *name* from the Lamb's book of life.

We read of the heathen Amalekites who killed weak and sick Israelites as they marched through the wilderness, that the Lord said He would *blot out their names and remember their sins*. That is a type of those who do not yield themselves to the Lord. (Read Exodus 17:14.)

We read now from St. Luke 13:24-26: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets."

You see, these people professed the name of Christ; they even ate the Lord's supper and professed to be followers of Him. But they were self-righteous, and Jesus will say to such as they: "I know you not whence ye are: depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last." St. Luke 13:27-30.

No matter how backslidden you are, He will forgive you if you will repent. You may think you are lost, but I want you to know God is calling today. He wants you to choose to come to Him. Many are smug in self-righteousness and will stay outside because of unforgiven sins. They will knock, but the gate will not open to them. Their sins have shut them out of Glory Land.

But Jesus will soon complete His work. The day of opportunity will be past. The names of the elect will be made up. Soon the book of life will have the last name entered; the last sermon will have been preached, the last hymn sung, the last appeal made to the hearts of men. Then Jesus will pronounce the decree: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: . . . he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly." Revelation 22:11, 12.

Every account will have been settled for all eternity. Are you ready?

It is a dangerous thing to forget God's law. We are told in Hosea an astounding thing for our day: If we forget His law, *He will forget our children*. (Read Hosea 4:6.) That is one reason for the tremendous tide of crime on the earth. Do you know, friends, that many of those who commit crimes today are led to do so by the teachings and example of Christian people? Why, friends, a criminal who openly defies the law of the land is often imitating the principles of some Christian man who, *by his example*, is denying the ten commandments. A man who does not keep the commandment in regard to the seventh day is breaking down the minds of youth concerning the law of God. The young people get the idea that the laws of God are not so sacred, really, as they once thought them to be. Friends, when you disregard the Sabbath you open the door to evil in the land, and that is the reason so many homes are broken up. In how many homes today is there regular family worship? We are so busy that we give little or no time to the training of the young.

I was reading one day about the experience of a minister in the city of Detroit. He went to call on a parishioner, to whom he said, "Hello, Johnny, where are the folks?"

"Oh," replied Johnny, "they are all busy. Mother has gone to a bridge party, sister Ann is taking her dancing lesson, Dad is down in the cellar making prune whisky, and I am here playing jazz on the phonograph."

Someone has called this round of family life the "great American home." No wonder the home is like this when God is not honored. If we reject and ignore the commandments of God, we must reap the consequences. Our society today is actually rejecting the teachings of the Word of God, but we cannot avoid the effects. As we sow, so shall we reap. The judgments of God are certain. We are hastening on to that great day of rewards.

A story is told about the influence of a Sunday school teacher over a child. One day a Sunday school was in session. The people noticed a ragged man sitting in a rear pew, who, finally, at the testimony meeting got up and said:

"Look at me; I am a lost man. If the officers of the law knew where I am, they would be after me. I was one of five boys who attended Sunday school here. Our teacher, to make it more interesting for us in Sunday school, taught us to play cards. After a while, with us it was more cards and less Bible, and finally, it was all cards and no Bible. Soon we had a system of our own, and we began to gamble. We went from that to worse, and at last committed terrible crimes to make money. Two of the boys are in prison now, one was executed, and two of us are fugitives from justice. The police would be here for me if they knew I am here!"

He paused a moment, overcome by deep emotion, and then added, "My father was the minister of this church, and our family sat in this very pew." Then he passed out the door and was gone. A tall woman dressed in black in the front row arose and cried as he left the building, "I was that boy's teacher!" And she fell unconscious to the floor.

What an influence a sheep has on the lambs! In the parable, you remember, it was not a "lamb," but a "sheep" that wandered away. Oh, what a price some people will have to pay when they meet the great Judge! God said, "I will forget thy children."

We oft hear the plea for trying to keep
The lambs of the flock in the fold:
And well we may; but what of the sheep?
Shall they be left out in the cold?

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away,
In the parable Jesus told—
A grown-up sheep that had gone astray
From ninety and nine in the fold,

Out in the wilderness, out in the cold,
 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought ;
 And back to the flock, safe into the fold,
 'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long,
 And as earnestly hope and pray?
 Because there is danger, if they go wrong,
 They will lead the young lambs away.

The lambs will follow the sheep, you know.
 Wherever the sheep may stray ;
 If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
 Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

And so with the sheep we earnestly plead
 For the sake of the lambs today ;
 If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost
 Some sheep may have to pay!

—*Selected.*

Some people forget God, *for they live as if there were no God.* Now, you can see whom God forgets.

But the man that God forgot is the man I used to be! The man of *sin*, the man *lost*, the man *down and out*, the man I *ought not to be*. The old, sinful, lost man God forgets. I become a new man in Christ Jesus. The man God forgets is the one who is crucified with Christ and is then re-created. If we do not become new men He will forget us, and that will be the end of us. If we forget God and do not follow His Word, He will forget us. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalms 9:17.

In Psalms 69:28 we read of those who will not accept the truth, "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous."

God forgets the "old man" (the man of sin). In Ephesians 4:22-24 we are told by St. Paul to "put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and . . . put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

If you come to Jesus repenting of your sins and say, "Just as I am, I come to Thee; take me, Lord, and forgive me," the blessed Lord will forgive your every sin.

Napoleon once found a man implicated in a plot against the empire. A letter he had written which was brought to Napoleon by his secretary was the evidence. The death sentence was pronounced upon the man. The condemned man's wife came and pleaded with Napoleon to save her husband. Showing her the letter, Napoleon said, "Is that your husband's handwriting?" She admitted it was. "Is that the only evidence there is against him?" he asked his secretary.

"That is all, sir." Then Napoleon took the letter and, before the eyes of the weeping woman and of the secretary, threw it into the fire. Turning to the woman, he said, "There is no evidence that your husband is a traitor; go in peace."

So, friends, if we come to Jesus and ask forgiveness in His name, God will destroy all evidence and blot out our sins forever.

In Micah the seventh chapter, verses 18 and 19, we read: "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

God forgets all our sins. He destroys all the evidence. And, really, it *is* something to praise the Lord for, isn't it, friends? God will *forgive and God will forget*. He says, "I will cast all your sins into the depths of the sea." (See Micah 7:19.) The tenth chapter of Hebrews gives us the same great truth, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. . . . For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Verses 35-37.

One day a famous doctor died. Shortly afterward his widow, in looking over his books, found that thousands of dollars were owed to him. She took the case to court and demanded that these debts be paid. She was asked if the writing across the account was her husband's handwriting. She replied that it was. Across the top of hundreds of accounts was written in red ink the words, "Forgiven. Too poor to pay." She could not collect a cent. The doctor had written across the account, in red ink, the words that canceled the debt. And so it will be with every repenting soul. God will forgive the man *you are*. The man of failure and sin, *that* man will be the man God forgets.

There will be many surprised men in the judgment. Many people we expect to see in heaven will not be there, and many people we do not expect to see will be there. In St. Matthew 19:30, we read, the "first shall be last; and the last shall be first." What a wonderful thing it is to be ready and prepared for a place in that great kingdom which shall never end.

"Not everyone that sayeth unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." St. Matthew 7:21. Those who *do* His will in simple things as well as in the so-called "greater things" will hear His words of welcome:

"Come, ye blessed of My Father." St. Matthew 25:34.

Some will say, "But I am a good moral man, and I am all right. I don't do this or that." But remember, friends, in days of old when Jesus came, those people were condemned because of the light which had come to them.

"This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." St. John 3:19.

It is our duty and our privilege to walk in the light as God sends it to us. I am glad, friends, that God forgets the man of sin, the man I used to be, and that He will not forget me if I come to Him. "Lord, remember me" (St. Luke 23:42), were the words of the dying thief as he hung on the cross. There he hung, and in his desperation he surrendered his soul to a dying Saviour—to Jesus, the Creator of the world, nailed on the tree, His brow pierced by many a thorn, "a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3); a Man forced out of the world by wicked people; a Man rejected by humanity, His hands nailed to prevent their ministry of love. But all the powers of evil could not stop Him from saving a soul, as from His bruised lips came the words, "Thou shalt be with Me in Paradise." St. Luke 23:43.

And, friends, we have the same blessed promise. Although He forgets us as we were, He will not forget what we are in Him. He will not forget us. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord harkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name." Malachi 3:16.

If you ever go to Canada and visit the city of Ottawa, as you climb Parliament Hill you will see the beautiful Victory Tower. There you will find the book of remembrance in which the names of every Canadian soldier who fought in the Great War are recorded. The name is in the "Golden Book of Remembrance." So also has God a book of remembrance. Every time we testify for Him the record is written in His book of remembrance. God will not forget our good deeds. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10. He will not forget you, dear friend.

In Isaiah 49:14, 15 we read, "Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." A mother may forget, but God will not forget. God will remember you.

Jesus remembers, He remembers you !
Other friends may fail you, He is always true ;
He will heal your broken heart, burdened with regrets ;
Jesus still remembers when the world forgets.

—*A. H. Ackley.*

Satan Now Appears as Christ!

In the first chapter of Revelation we have a word picture of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want you to notice carefully, for I have two interesting and startling documents to read to you after reading this description of Jesus Christ. And this description in the book of Revelation is very significant, for it is to be copied and imitated through the years. Notice the phrasing of it. John is telling us about his vision of Christ. We will read from the first chapter and the tenth verse, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet."

Now the apostle John is having a vision "on the *Lord's day*." This is the *Sabbath day*. God has a *day*, friends. Now remember, John the revelator was not a medium going into a trance, but was a prophet of the Most High, absolutely opposed to such communications as are claimed by the Spiritualists, for in this book he says sorcerers and those who have to do with familiar spirits will meet their end in the lake of fire. John says in Revelation 1:10-13, "And [I] heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches. . . . And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."

How did John know the person was "*like unto the Son of man*"? Oh, friends, John had seen Him in the flesh. He was the One whom John loved. John was called the "beloved disciple." The Scripture tells us that at the last supper John lay with his head on Jesus' breast. John was very intimate with Jesus. John was one of the three on the mount of transfiguration. He was one of the three in the Garden of Gethsemane—one of the three at the cross to whom Jesus spoke just before His death. John was one of the three who had been with Him so many times. And John says here in the thirteenth verse that he saw "One like

unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about . . . with a golden girdle."

Notice the words "a garment down to the foot," and the garment was white. It was a white garment because He shone like the sun. Notice also, "a golden girdle."

"His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters. And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Verses 14-18.

Our spiritualistic friends tell us that there is no death. I have here in my hand a book written by a well-known modern Spiritualist. Here is the heading of the chapter, "I Am Convinced There Is No Death." "There is no death," he says. Now, friends, Jesus said, "I am He that liveth, and was dead." Do you believe what He said? "And, behold, I am alive forevermore." Jesus was alive; He was dead and is now alive. He is *different* now from what He was when He was dead. Well, the Spiritualists will tell us that our Lord Jesus Christ is just like the rest of the people who died; they will tell us the dead are all around us, but we cannot see them, and that they are on the other side working things out for us. But this scripture tells us that Jesus was dead. "And," He says, "behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Thank the Lord for such a Christ. That is the description of Christ in the first chapter of Revelation.

Now turn to the book of 2 Thessalonians. Here we find a statement by the Lord about these last world signs that tell us His coming is near. Chapter 2, verses 1 and 2, read:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."

Paul had written the First Epistle to Thessalonians, enlarging on the second coming of Christ. The people got the wrong idea, thinking that the Lord was coming at once. Therefore he wrote the second epistle, telling them that certain things must occur before the coming of Christ. He warns them not to believe in spurious epistles that were being circulated, some of them even signed with his name. Men in those days imitated even Paul's writing, as we see by his saying:

"Be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." Verses 2, 3.

There was to be a great "falling away;" the "man of sin" was to be revealed. The words "son of perdition" are found only one other time in the Bible, and were spoken of Judas in connection with his betrayal of Jesus. They apply only to one who professes friendship, but is a traitor at heart.

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. . . . And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time." Verses 4-6.

The apostle Paul is here speaking of the pagan Roman Empire's holding back the full bloom of the papal apostasy.

"The mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." (The word "letteth" in the King James Version in the early seventeenth century meant "to hinder.") *And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.*" Verses 7, 8.

That great apostasy, that great "falling away," in all branches will be in this world until it is finally revealed and it blossoms out; until Christ comes to smite it into nothingness, at His second coming. "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (that is, miracles). Verse 9.

Do you know, my dear friends, the Scripture says that just before Christ comes Satan will produce *wonders*. The Bible calls them "lying wonders;" that is, they will *seem* to be something they

are *not*. Their purpose is to deceive the people. A miracle which will *lie*—how could it be? By claiming to prove something that is false. Pharaoh had two magicians, Jannes and Jambres, who, when a miracle was performed imitated it. God says that in these last days there will be an upspringing of mighty wonders over all the world—“lying wonders”—the work of Satan. ‘Since we are living in the last days, we must expect to hear of these wonders.

I have just received two letters enclosing clippings about Conan Doyle’s widow having received word from her husband. She believes wonders are happening. I think about eighty per cent of the spiritualistic phenomena is nothing more nor less than miserable deception practiced upon a gullible public. Such were the spirits Conan Doyle saw who were arrested in New York! When arrested they were found to be very much in the flesh—the mediums themselves! We have the facts which prove this. Some of these cases are like that and some are not. But spiritism does produce some true phenomena. Some of these are truly wonders, but they are “lying wonders.” Just as people in the flesh produce some things that are marvels of deception, so these unseen beings produce wonders that are wonders. Anyone who doesn’t believe that is behind the times.

Every sort of lying wonder will be performed just before Christ comes. I maintain *that* is a sign of the coming of the Lord. There will be great wonders performed. But now let us read verse 10: “With all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” The only thing which makes a man believe these lying wonders is that he turns down the truth.

St. John 17:17 says, “Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.”

God’s Word is truth. But, friends, every time a man accepts the lying wonders of spiritism, we find he denies the Bible in regard to the state of the dead and also of the second coming of Christ. This is done by people who do not accept the truth of God’s Word, and who accept the lying wonders of Spiritualism. If they had accepted the word and warnings of the Bible, they never would have believed or accepted Spiritualism, because the two are diametrically opposed.

“For this cause God shall send them strong delusion,” we read on from 2 Thessalonians 2:11. Not only “delusion,” friends,

but "strong delusion." These people are serious about this, and will actually believe it. When Mother Eve saw the apple on the tree, she saw that it was good for food. Was it? No, but she believed it was. I once saw a man eating onions and smacking his lips—he thought he was eating strawberries. Was he? No, someone by hypnotism had control of his mind and had told him he was eating strawberries. When you yield your will to some unseen power, you will be in the same position as that man, and will do and believe things you would not otherwise do or believe.

"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food." (Genesis 3:6.) Eve was deluded; Adam was not. She was deceived. "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie." (That is what it is, *the* lie, and really is so translated by Rotherham.) If you will read the third chapter of Genesis, you will find the lie on which all lies hereafter are based:

"The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. [This serpent is used as a medium by this great power of which we are speaking.] And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? [Here the devil cast doubt on the Word of God.] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." Genesis 3:1-4.

"*Ye shall not surely die.*" That is *the* lie. Have you ever read "the lie" in Spiritualist magazines or papers? Why, that is *the* lie which says, "There is no death." God says, "*You shall die.*" The serpent, the old devil, says, "*You shall not die.*" I don't need a book on philosophy and sixteen letters after my name to see that. And people tell us what neither they nor we know in seventeen different languages, and we pay them to do it!

Some people are so deep that they are narrow, and some are so broad that they are shallow. What we ought to do is to believe the Word of God. Some will say, "You are unorthodox." Well, my friends, I want to be "Bible-dox." Let us take our stand for the Lord or for Satan, what do you say?

Now, friends, the serpent said much more, "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall *be as gods*, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5.

You see, he casts doubt on the Word of God. Get your eyes open. Eve got hers open all right. She brought sin into this old world, and it is with us yet!

Some say we are like "gods" already, knowing good and evil. Now, friends, all the rest of the Book from the third chapter of Genesis on through the entire Bible records God's great plan to get us away from that evil thing that was done back there; to get us to know good again. That lie told there, friends, is *the great lie* that brings this great delusion down to the last days.

According to Bible prophecy, an attempt is to be made in the last days to counterfeit the second coming of Christ. There are some working now in secret channels and in cabinets, there is a place now where spirits are supposed to come, and over in Europe they say Christ has come. Let us read what Christ said in the twenty-fourth chapter of St. Matthew, beginning with the twenty-third verse:

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." "Believe it not!" And I don't believe it. We must believe the Word of God rather than the words of these deceiving spirits. "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Verse 24.

If you wanted to imitate somebody, would you dress the very opposite of his appearance? No, you would try to dress just as he does. A man in Hollywood secured money from his friends because they thought him to be a great prince. He dressed the part and talked the part, and they paid the part. I notice spiritualistic mediums try to produce a counterfeit Jesus, with the clothes and appearance that they suppose He had while here on earth. I have an article by Miss Templeton, telling me of a spirit wearing a Prince Albert coat! Why? In order to fit the spirit of the dress of his age! Sometimes my spiritualistic friends bring up spirits in three-cornered hats and suits such as Napoleon wore, to make them look more the part of spirits of the early nineteenth century.

How is Christ going to be made to appear, then, by false prophets? Just as they think He will appear and look; just as the Bible teaches He will look. It speaks of the glorious being of Christ. When the false christ comes (And Jesus Christ said he will come—not *might* come—but *will* come.), he will imitate the truths that Christ gave in life, and he will imitate the Bible

description of the person of Christ as found in Revelation, chapter one. But, thank God, it isn't possible to deceive the elect. "Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not." St. Matthew 24:25, 26.

"Behold, He is in the desert." A man told me that Christ had appeared in the great temple in Salt Lake City, and that many people were going there because they thought God's plan was for them to go there. And some say Christ came in the "secret chamber"—in the cabinet at a séance, that He appeared and talked with them. They say He was in the secret chambers. I believe *some* spirit was there, but it was *not* Christ. It was some "lying" spirit. "Oh," they say, "he was a beautiful being; he said beautiful things; he offered a wonderful prayer." Do you think he is a being with hoofs and horns? No, friends. The devil is a wonderful musician; he has a mighty intellect. He was next to Jesus Christ, the greatest mind of this universe. It is said of Satan:

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:15. He was a great singer, a great musician, a mighty intellect; but iniquity was found in him, and he was the opposer of God's truth. No matter how beautifully he can pray or quote Scripture there is no light in him, for he goes contrary to the Bible. Read Isaiah 8: 19, 20.

Now we will read a startling announcement of the appearance of a being masquerading as Christ. It is written by a pastor of one of New York's most wealthy churches. Here is the article:

"I was thirty-five years old and a minister to a little parish in Quebec." (Friends, he wasn't a priest, but a minister. He wasn't a Presbyterian or a Methodist or a Roman Catholic or a Seventh-day Adventist, but—you think about it—he was minister to a little "parish" in Quebec.)

"I knew I had large things ahead of me and that my life was to become more and more vital as I grew older. One summer afternoon I had taken a long walk into the woods in the vicinity of Montreal. I was trudging along, smoking my brier pipe, with my hands behind my back. I suddenly looked ahead of me. Coming down the road ahead of me in a stupendous aureole of light was a robed figure."

What did the figure have on? Why do you suppose he had

on a *robe*? Because the description in Revelation pictures Christ as having on a long robe. The minister says that he recognized Christ instantly. How did he recognize Him? From the description he had read in the Bible, of course. [Somebody in the audience here started to talk aloud.] I have noticed that the Bible is true every time. It is being fulfilled right now.

In Isaiah 8:19, we read, "When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that *peep*, and that *mutter*: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" And, friends, they always "peep" and "mutter" right out in meeting before I get through! They can't contain themselves, but have to peep and mutter. A person lives up to his character every time; and I have had four of them that peeped and muttered at one time when I was speaking. I have had mediums peep and mutter in meeting many times. So if they peep and mutter, you will know which side of the question they are on.

We read on from this minister's article: "I halted in my tracks and stared, wondering if I were the victim of hallucination. The 'splendorful' figure came onward. He put literal arms of sinew and flesh about me. [The minister didn't see the flesh, but he felt it. He is saying more here than he means, for he didn't know what the arms were made of, but the being was real enough for him to feel it.]

"He put literal arms of sinew and flesh about me, called me by name, and embraced me. He said he wanted to talk with me about my future pastorates and the work of enlightenment I had come into mortal flesh to do in this generation. [You will notice this minister was a believer in reincarnation.]

"We turned aside into a near-by field, sat down beneath a tree out of sight of passersby behind a stone wall, and talked together for three quarters of an hour." With the brier pipe still in his mouth, no doubt.

There are many who will say this man did not see anything. But, remember, he is a minister of a great church. He told the account of his experience in confidence. He said he could give his name, but that it would bring many inquiries and would hurt him in his work.

This minister *did* see something. He *did* have this experience. He said this being was six feet, two or three inches tall, and stood

erect, with a graceful carriage. He had materialized, wearing a simple one-piece garment frequently mentioned in the Scripture, with a splendid scarlet robe wrapped over it and falling about him in graceful folds. You remember Christ had a scarlet robe about Him on the night of His trial. He had sandals on His feet. The reason the being this minister saw had sandals on was that Christ wore sandals. It was in order to counterfeit Christ. Here are the exact words:

"But the outstanding feature about him that impressed me more than all else was the color of his hair. In Palestine it was once reputed to be 'the color of new wine,' a hue of beautiful copper. Now his hair is sheerest white. [What did I read from the Bible, friends?] Not the whiteness of senility that means simply lost pigment, but the whiteness of radiant light! We discussed modern humanity, the trend of the times, what the plan of continued salvation was to be in the present age, and particularly in this present cycle, . . . and what part I was expected to play in it. He told me details about my future career that have since come true to the dot."

There were a lot of these spiritualistic beings talking about 1914 before we started that war. I don't know when they are going to forecast again, but they are getting something ready in the great laboratories of the unseen. In view of present world trouble, let us read that sentence again—"We discussed . . . what the plan of continued salvation was to be in the present age and the time between 1928 and 1941, and what part I was to play in it. He told me details about my future career that have since come true to the dot. I smoked my brier pipe during the whole visitation, and it seemed the most natural thing in the world that I should do—sitting there like two old friends planning a goodly work for humanity. At the end of the interview we arose and embraced. The Master started toward the road again and dissolved into thin air before my eyes!"

"Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light," say the Scriptures in 2 Corinthians 11:14. Now let me bring you a wonderful statement written some years ago by a modern servant of the Lord. I quote:

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come.

In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. (Revelation 1:13-15.) The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' "

Friends, the papers will headline this very thing someday: "Christ has come!"

I continue to read from "The Great Controversy":

"The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people. . . . This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying, This is 'the great power of God.' (Acts 8:10.) But the people of God will not be misled."—"*The Great Controversy*," by E. G. White, pp. 624, 625.

Since such false appearances have begun, we know that the prophecy of St. Matthew 24 is reaching its fulfillment, and the coming of our Lord is near. The great deception has begun! Saints of the Lord, fresh courage take! Gird on your armor!

"We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling—
To be living is sublime.
Hark! the waking up of nations,
Gog and Magog to the fray:
Hark! what soundeth? Is creation
Groaning for her latter day?

"Christian, rouse and arm for conflict,
Nerve thee for the battlefield;
Bear the helmet of salvation,
And the mighty gospel shield;
Bind the breastplate firmly on thee,
Take the Spirit's sword in hand;
Boldly, fearlessly, go forth then,
In Jehovah's strength to stand.

“Wicked spirits gather round thee,
Legions of those foes to God,
Principalities most mighty
Walk unseen the earth abroad ;
They are gath’ring to the battle,
Strengthened for the last deep strife ;
Christian, arm ! be watchful, ready,
Struggle manfully for life.”

What a gathering that will be when the saints of God will all be taken home and the children of God meet together ! But friends, here in this world we must take our stand on the Word of God ! We must come to Christ and accept His teaching *just as it is written !*

The Standard Oil Company has millions of dollars today because its leaders had faith in that part of the Bible which records the story of Moses. Two men, great scientists, read in the Bible one day that the little ark in which Moses was placed had *pitch* and *bitumen* (Exodus 2:3, margin, R. V.) upon it. They knew that where those two things were found there was oil, so they drilled there in Egypt and found the “black gold.” Oil came gushing out. The Bible is always true !

A great manufacturer in Indiana had a friend, a lawyer. They had been boyhood chums, but he had never talked to his friend about his soul. One night he awakened in his home and couldn’t go back to sleep. It seemed as if the Lord was speaking to him, saying :

“You believe My word, but there is poor Tom over there not ready for heaven. You have done nothing for him. Why don’t you go and tell Tom to accept your Christ ? Why don’t you go tonight ?”

“I got up,” he says, “and walked through the snow and wind of that blustering night, till I found the door of Tom’s palatial home. I rang the doorbell. A sleepy servant answered, and I said. ‘Bring him down ! I must see Tom at once !’ ”

After a short time Tom came rushing through the library and said, “What’s the matter ? Somebody dead ?”

The friend’s eyes filled up, and he said, “I have known you since we were boys, Tom. We played together, and carved our initials together on the old desk.”

“Yes,” said Tom, “that is true, but what is the matter ?”

"Tom, we went with the same girls, we went into the same business."

"Yes, but what is the matter, old friend?"

"We went to Congress together."

"What is the matter?"

"Oh, Tom, I have never said a word about my Lord."

Here he broke down and couldn't say another word. He went away, saying to himself, I certainly made a fool of myself tonight! But a few weeks later he saw Tom go to the altar and give his soul to God.

How many will say to some friend, "Forgive me for not speaking to you before, but I want to see you in the kingdom of God"? Friends, human sympathy and love have a great deal to do with people's turning to Christ. The words should go out from every Christian: "O, Tom—Joe—Mary—won't you come to my Saviour? Tom—Joe—I want you to forgive me for what I have done!"

O friends, if you ask some friend to forgive you, if you will show him the Christlike spirit, he will be led to Him.

How many will say, "I want you to pray for me that I may be ready when the gates swing ajar? Pray for me, preacher." God bless you—and you—and you!

Is there some sin in your life?—some trouble? Will you say: "Pray for me"? Yes, God bless you!

Friends, let us learn to pray and to know our Saviour. Will anyone else say: "Pray for me!" Yes! God bless you—and you—and you!

Let us pray for these now:

"Heavenly Father, we would ask Thee to remember these dear people here. We pray that Thou wilt help us to be interested in the things of God. Help us to be people not misled by the great deception of these days. May God bless us all! In the name of Jesus we ask it, Amen!"

The Spirit Mystery House

of San José

I wish to call your attention to the Word of the living God found in the eighth chapter of Isaiah, from the sixteenth and seventeenth verses. This is a prophecy of the *last* days, the days in which we live. This is evident from the verses which I will now read:

"Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. . . . I will wait upon the Lord, that hideth His face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for Him."

It is while people are *looking* for the Lord to come that this prophecy applies.

"When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek *unto their God?* for the living to the dead?" (That means, should they seek of the *dead* to find out things for the living, or should they seek unto their God?) "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:19, 20.

That is the great acid test of every doctrine—"To the law and to the testimony." There is no light in them if they speak other than the Word. Especially is it speaking here of the *last days*, and it tells us that in the last days we shall be told to seek after familiar spirits, spirits that "peep" and "mutter."

I know they do "peep" and "mutter," for I have heard them, and I don't care to hear them again. When I was holding a meeting in Philadelphia once, there were eight witches and wizards present that night. A medium sat in the front and had the others posted around to "peep" and "mutter" to break up the meeting; but they couldn't do it, for the Spirit of the Lord prevailed.

While I was holding meetings in another place in Pennsylvania when I was only a boy just starting out in the ministry, I was living in the rear of a house used for an undertaker's establishment, from which place I moved to a house that was said to be "haunted." As I got up to speak one evening I saw a village medium in a front

seat, and as I began to speak she went into a trance and began to "peep" and "mutter." I tell you she peeped and muttered and peeped and muttered, and was in a rigid trance, peeping and muttering while I was preaching! When I got through preaching, she raised her head and said: "Don't I *know* this is true! Don't I *know* this is true!" She then ran out of the meeting as though the spirits were after her.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to this world. The Bible prophecies which forecast His coming portray many signs by which we may know that He is near, even at the doors. We are told to announce the fulfillment of these signs to the world, that men may prepare to meet the issues of eternity.

Now, among these signs of the last days, we find Spiritualism! Not that Spiritualism is a *new* thing—it has been in the world since the first lie was told in Eden by Satan—"Ye shall not surely die." Genesis 3:4. But the Bible indicates that there will be a great and intense revival of Spiritualism down in the closing years of this dispensation.

Deceptive spirits will lead the nations to the world's last war, Armageddon. Revelation 16:13-16, A. R. V.:

"For they are spirits of demons working signs; which go forth unto the kings of the whole world, to gather them together unto the war of the great day of God the Almighty. . . . And *they* gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew Har-Magedon."

These spirits, who are really *demons*, or fallen angels, *claim* to be the spirits of the dead. In Revelation 12 we read that when Satan fell from heaven, one third of the angelic host fell with him. These fallen angels are the demons of the Bible. They are reserved to the judgment. (Read 2 Peter 2:4.) In Matthew 8:29 it is recorded that these devils (demons, Greek), or fallen angels, when rebuked by Jesus, referred to this coming judgment when they said to Him, "Art Thou come hither to torment us *before the time?*"

Now we will turn to 1 Timothy 4:1, 2: "The Spirit speaketh *expressly*, that *in the latter times* some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to *seducing spirits*, and doctrines of devils [demons, fallen angels]; speaking *lies in hypocrisy*."

These spirits are hypocritical. A hypocrite claims to be something, or somebody, that he knows he is not. These spirits some-

times come to us and claim to be the dear ones who have been taken from us by death. But they are not dead people. They are not living people. They are not people at all. They are fallen angels masquerading under an assumed character. In fact, the only way they can keep from revealing their true character is by this pretense.

God condemned Spiritualism in ancient times. You remember the terrible experience of King Saul. He "had put away those that had familiar spirits . . . out of the land." 1 Samuel 28:3. Samuel, the prophet, was dead. The Philistines were warring against Israel, and in his desperation Saul made the fatal mistake of appealing to the *very* familiar spirits he had opposed *in obedience to God's command*. (Read 1 Samuel 28 and Leviticus 19:31; 20:27.) He went disobediently to the medium of Endor. Here a spirit appeared to the woman—not to Saul—and, accepting her description as "an old man, . . . with a mantle," "Saul perceived [or conjectured] that it was Samuel." Of course there were numerous old men with mantles in those days, but when "God is departed" from a person as we are told He had departed from Saul (read 1 Samuel 16:14; 28:15 and 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14), a man is liable to believe on very little evidence.

But was this "Samuel's spirit" really Samuel, the prophet of God? To answer this question, let me ask another. If the "natural immortality" theory were true (which it is not), the prophet Samuel was already in heaven with the Lord. Then would God send him down to the medium of Endor as a familiar spirit when He had already declared the consulting with familiar spirits to be an abomination to Him? (Read Deuteronomy 18: 9-14.) Only one answer is possible. This supposed "Samuel spirit" was a demon masquerading as the prophet Samuel.

This spirit was a good guesser. He knew that a big battle impended. He knew that God had forsaken Israel, who were hopelessly outnumbered by pagan foes and evil spirits. He therefore predicted the death of Saul and his sons. This was a good guess, but not a perfect guess, for, although Saul did die, some of his sons lived for many years afterward. (See 1 Samuel 28:19: "Tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me!") If Samuel were in heaven, how could Saul, who had forsaken God and who died a suicide, be with Samuel, a holy prophet of God? But if Samuel were not in heaven, *then where was he?* So this spirit not

only lied to Saul about Saul's sons, but it lied to him about being Samuel.

Last of all, we read in 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14, "So Saul died for his transgression . . . and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; and inquired not of the Lord: therefore He slew him."

So you see Saul's séance is a great warning against Spiritualism. This proves, even without my former proof, that the spirit Saul consulted was the wrong kind of spirit. And God punished Saul for this terrible sin.

I saw in Long Beach, California, on the wall of a building used by a spirit medium a large painting of the transfiguration of Christ. Spiritists try to use this event as an example of the Bible's teaching and approving a spiritist séance. But in 2 Peter 1:16-18 we are plainly told by Peter, who was present and saw it, that it was an example, or preglorification, of Christ as He shall appear at His second coming. Peter was there—he ought to know—and he says, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount."

Anyone who stops to think can see at once that this could not have been a séance of spirits with Jesus as the medium, as the spiritists claim. They actually claim that Jesus was a great medium. Anyone should know that Elijah never died, but was translated bodily (2 Kings 2:11) and therefore could not have been a so-called spirit. Since Moses had been raised from the dead, this was not his so-called spirit. In Jude 9 we find that Satan bitterly opposed this, the world's first resurrection from the dead, and disputed with Christ over the body of Moses:

"Yet Michael the Archangel, when contending with the devil He disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

Paul says in Romans 5:14 that "death reigned from Adam to Moses;" hence, Moses was the first example of resurrection from the dead. Indeed, the Scriptures abound in the teaching that Moses was a type of Christ, and Moses' resurrection confirms it.

This very event, the transfiguration, as Peter understood it, was to show forth the *coming resurrection* of the dead in Christ, of which Moses was the example. It was also to show forth by Elijah the *coming translation* of the saved who shall be living when Christ comes.

As for Jesus, surely no one can believe that He was then dead and "in the spirit," for He was still alive. Even when He was raised from the dead, He was not a spirit, for He then positively denied it, saying, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have." St. Luke 24:39.

We read in the Word of God that in the days of Israel wizards who "peep" and "mutter" were to be destroyed. "There shall not be found among you . . . a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee." Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

"A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them." Leviticus 20:27.

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:31.

Here God separated the wizards and mediums from His people.

A leading Spiritualist paper of today openly repudiates Christianity. I am reading from the *Progressive Thinker*, August 28, 1920: "We refuse to be called by the name of 'Christian Spiritualists' because Christianity stands for the dogma of salvation by a man's death, a blood atonement."

They refuse it because Christianity means the death of Jesus for the salvation of the world. Continuing, we read: "While we clearly accept many things as taught by Christ, we cannot afford to call ourselves 'Christians,' for that would imply that the blood would cleanse us from sin, and we deny that."

Now, that is "anti-Christian," isn't it? I read further, "*Spiritualism is a religion.*" Don't get the idea that Spiritualism is some philosophy to dabble in and still keep your Christianity. It is a religion, but distinct from other religions. "It is a religion free from superstitious features that mar the system known as Chris-

tianity." "We denounce the following," they continue: "The vicarius atonement of Jesus Christ."

Ah! I feel as Mary Magdalene did as she moaned, "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." St. John 20:13.

Friends, any system or thought that takes away my Lord Jesus Christ is not for me! That must be the test of the true way. "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:3.

Reading on we learn that they also denounce "the literal resurrection of the body; the virgin birth; the infallibility of the Bible; and salvation by faith only." They deny all these. They say, "The Spiritualist religion is as different from the so-called Christian religion as a sunny day is from a starless midnight."

But I say the Christian religion is the sunlight of day and Spiritualism is the midnight of darkness!

Now, my friends, I want to prove to you that spirits do "peep" and "mutter"! Here I have the first chapter of Genesis taken from a Spiritualist's so-called Bible, which came into my hands—a translation by one of these "spirits." The Christian Bible starts out in a very simple way: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." A child can understand it because of its simplicity, and yet the wisest philosopher does not know *all* it means. Quoting from the Spiritualist Bible we read from the first chapter of Genesis:

"In the beginning God, the life in God, the Lord in God, the holy Procedure, inhabited the dome which, burning in magnificent primeval and revolving in prismatic and undulatory spiral, appeared, and was the pavilion of the Spirit in glory inexhaustible and inconceivable, in movement spherical, unfolded in harmonious procedure disclosive.

"And God said, 'Let mechanical Procedure be, and movement, rhythmical, harmonical, unfolded from the firmament.' And God said, 'Let there be space,' and the firmament was separated from the emanation, and the firmament, unmoved, appeared, and the emanation unfolded within the procedure, and the firmament is manifest infinitude, and the emanation separated, is encompassed space.

"And God made two great lights to rule the Zodiac and to be for creative disclosure, disclosive manifestation, manifest glory glorious radiation, interpenetrative aggregation; and thence vortices, vortical suns, suns of vortices, solaeiums, vortical planetarium, planets, floral universes, universal paradises, paradisaical heavens, heavens of spiritual universes, celestial heavens, seraphic habitations, seraphimal universes, cities of heavenly seraphima, and final consociative universal intelligence in unity of unmeasurable individuality, in tri-unity of unfolding universes, adoring and ascending in beautification unto eternal life.

"This is the Genesis of nature; not uncreated or self-originated, but created; not progressive upgrowing, upheaving, upmentalizing, upreaching struggle of a germ; but condescension infinite, creation voluntary, and bestowment merciful, of the Divine Creator; to whom be given adoration immeasurable and eternal, world without end!"

Clear as a fog, isn't it? I haven't read that for years, and it is hard to read, so I will leave the rest of it. Now that is a little "peeping" and "muttering," we must all admit.

A few years ago in Washington, D. C., I was greatly surprised to read that the devil had been converted. In 2 Corinthians 11:14 we read: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." Now, my dear friends, no matter how much he is transformed, he is still the old devil.

My grandfather was a preacher in England. His father, too, was a preacher, and his father—back to John Wesley. One day when my grandfather was a very little boy, he was walking in the meadows of Devonshire with an older boy. They saw a man coming toward them with a pack on his back, a Turkish rug peddler. He had a little red fez on his head. The two boys stood and stared at him, and the little boy said, "What is wrong with that man?" The bigger boy replied with finality in his look, "That is the devil!" He didn't have to speak again, for the little boy ran home as fast as he could and didn't stop till he was close to his mother's side. He told his mother they had seen the devil, that they saw his tail coming out over the collar of his coat. This, of course, was the tassel of his fez.

If the devil went around looking like that, people would know who he was and would keep away from him. We read something about him in St. John 8:44. Jesus talked to some people back

there who were filled with the spirit of the devil. He said unto them:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

The devil was once in the truth but wouldn't stay in the truth. He is the father of *the lie*, and the first time he opened his mouth he lied, as is recorded in the third chapter of Genesis. The first lie he told was that when a man is dead he isn't dead. God says that when a man is dead he is *dead*, but the devil says that when a man is dead he knows more than ever before. That is the basis of every false religion today. The basis of Spiritualism is that we are immortal *now, naturally*, and that man is more awake after death than ever before. I heard a preacher in Washington, D. C., who afterward went to San Francisco say, "Every man attends his own funeral. Five minutes after death he is around wondering why people are crying. He watches the preacher and wonders why they are so sorry." Every man who believes this is ready to receive Spiritualism. It is a sad thing today that people are in such a position and have no defense.

If the dead are *still living*, why *can't* they talk to us? What does the Bible say about it? "The dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.

These spirits that come back to earth, then, are *not* the spirits of the dead, but the spirits of devils. Now the Scripture says the devil is a liar, so if he claims to be converted, he is a liar. He was a liar "from the beginning," and he still lies and deceives. In the twentieth chapter of Revelation we read that God has prepared a fire for him. "The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone." Revelation 20:10. (Read also St. Matthew 25:41.)

We read in the book of 1 John that "for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8) and, at last, the devil himself. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might

destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil." Hebrews 2:14.

From the *Washington Post*, the Sunday edition of November 1, 1914, we read of the *conversion*(?) of Satan: "Now, my brethren, Christian ministers," (The purported spirit of a Lutheran preacher is talking. Didn't that demon chuckle when he said that! He put on a long-tailed coat and said,) "I am one of your profession." (No doubt the Lutherans repudiated him as one of their profession.) "Listen to the *new gospel* of Jehovah," the so-called preacher continued.

Paul says, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8. It is the doctrine of devils this spirit is preaching, the doctrine the Scriptures speak of. Inasmuch as this spirit says it is a "new gospel," that gives him away right at the start.

Continuing, this false preacher says, "We do not teach that judgment is far off, for it is here right now. Do not discourage souls by preaching damnation; rather teach that they should not ignore God's mysteries, the mysteries of good and evil."

They claim these spirits of demons are angels of God. They give Satan the name of "Helius." They say they preach a new revelation and truth. "Helius" (Satan), the preacher says, "was truly converted on November 1, 1914."

If the devil was converted in 1914, at the beginning of World War I, what would things be like if he hadn't been converted? If the devil has been converted these years, what would happen if he should really backslide? But Satan is converted *now*, this preacher tells us! He admonishes us, "Pray for him, ye earnest ministers and children of God, for the devil, 'Helius,' has a terrible time on his hands." They say the devil lives in the sun, the good spirits want him to turn and worship Jehovah, and other evil spirits have left him.

This hypocritical spirit continues: "You know the people on earth who turn to Christ have the hardest time to defend themselves from their former companions. The devil lures them on, not only to doubt their friend's conversion, but to do all they can against their former friends." He says further, "Now just imagine Satan's being converted! If he really is, it is an awful struggle for him! Satan was a high angel, the most popular one of the sons of

God who fell through pride." (That last is true all right. Read the twenty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel.) "For many thousands of years he has been a jailer on the lowest hell sphere on the sun. Helios, as he now gives his name, means 'sun' in the Greek. His Scriptural name in the Hebrew is 'Abaddon,' and in the Greek 'Apollyon.'"

You all know of the rise and spread of sun worship. Spiritism and spiritualistic manifestations always accompanied it, and do accompany it yet. Spiritualism is the basis of all heathenism.

The false preacher says, "The conversion of Satan was the turning point in the world. The devil is converted and a lot of his angels with him."

Over in San José, California, there was a great center of spiritualistic activity, and many years ago a debate occurred between a Christian minister there and a Spiritualistic medium. Here is the prayer the medium prayed before he debated, taken down by a stenographer and published in a San José paper. I hate to read it, but am reading it only as a record and not as a real prayer. The words were uttered by Professor W. Chaney, January 29, 1874. They were reprinted in the *Signs of the Times*, May 10, 1877.

"O devil, prince of demons in the Christian hell! O thou monarch of the bottomless pit, thou king of scorpions having stings in their tails, to whom it is given to hurt the earth for five months, I beseech thee to hear my prayer. . . . Bless thy servant in his labors before thee. Fill his mouth with words of wisdom. Enable him to defend thee from the false charges about to be made against thy sulphurous majesty, and triumph by truth and logic over his opponent, so that this audience may realize that thou art a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering devil."

Today Spiritualism does not expressly ally itself with the devil. In the olden days it openly acknowledged the relationship.

The Bible tells us that *in the last days* the spirits of demons will go forth to deceive the nations. (Read Revelation 16.) There is to be a great revival of Spiritualism in the last days. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy." 1 Timothy 4:1, 2.

A hypocrite is a person who knows that he is deceiving the people. He claims to be something which he knows he is not; so these spirits of devils claim to be the spirits of our dead loved ones.

They claim to be the dead. They come with caresses; they come with words of love to lead us on. They take advantage of us when we are sitting sorrowful and weak by an empty chair, when we long for the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still. Spiritualism claims to be the consoler of mankind, but the fact is that it brings the hypocritical spirits of devils claiming to be our own loved ones.

Some years ago Mr. J. W. Daniel wrote a book on the subject of Spiritualism, including in it an account of the interesting experience of Mr. William B. Lanning of Trenton, New Jersey, who compelled one of these masquerading spirits to tell the truth. It is as follows:

"Mr. William B. Lanning, of Trenton, New Jersey, an esteemed friend of the writer, not being fully satisfied of the real character of these spirits, held the following colloquy with one, through a writing medium. The spirit on being asked if it were right and beneficial for the human race to consult these spirits, replied:

" 'Yes, it will make them happier and better.'

"He then testified in substance to the main doctrines of these spirits, and said, though he died an unconverted man he was happy, that departed Christians were among these spirits—all were happy—that there was to be no resurrection of the dead, no future punishment, nor day of judgment.

"Being cross-examined a little, the spirit became very angry and unwilling to answer, and begged to depart—said he would go and get more spirits and return. Said my friend:

" 'No, when you go I want you to stay away; but at present do you answer my questions. In the name of the Lord I demand it.'

"The 'happy' spirit quailed, and Mr. Lanning proceeded:

" 'Is the Bible true?'

" 'Yes.'

" 'The Bible forbids necromancy and the consulting of familiar spirits. Which shall I believe, you or the Bible?'

" 'The Bible.'

" 'Why then did you tell me that it was right and useful to consult the spirits?'

" 'Because I wanted to deceive you.'

" 'What is the business of these spirits with men?'

" 'What do you think it is?'

" 'I think it is to deceive.'

" 'Very well, you are correct.'

" 'Are you happy?'

" 'No, I am miserable.'

" 'Is there a hell?'

" 'Yes.'

" 'Are you in hell?'

" 'No, not yet.'

" 'Do you expect to go there?'

" 'Yes.'

" 'When?'

" 'At the day of judgment.'

" 'Is there to be a day of judgment?'

" 'Yes.'

" 'Is there to be a resurrection of the dead?'

" 'Yes.'

" 'Have you any prospect of happiness?'

" 'I have no hope.'

" 'In the name of the Lord, is there a good spirit—the spirit of a departed Christian—among all those rapping and writing spirits?'

" 'No, not one.'

" 'Where are the spirits of departed Christians?'

" 'The Lord has taken them.'

" 'Why then did you tell my brother in Philadelphia [a Spiritualist] the contrary of all this?'

" 'Because I wished to deceive him.'

" 'Could you deceive him?'

" 'Yes.'

" 'Why could you deceive him?'

" 'Because he is a fool.'

" 'Why is he a fool?'

" 'Because he doesn't believe the Bible.'

" 'Can't you deceive me?'

" 'No.'

" 'Why?'

" 'Because you believe the Bible.'

" 'Will you tell my brother what you have told me?'

" 'Yes!'

" 'I want to hear from you no more; good-by forever.'

“‘Good-by forever.’

“Mr. Lanning is a man of veracity, and this account is perfectly reliable.”—“*Spiritualism*,” pp. 82-84.

While everything else in the world has progressed, Spiritualism has stood still, and has made no progress at all. As Carlyle B. Haynes says: “Instead of giving up its idolatries and vanities, it is still fooling with tables and slates and pencils and pens and banjos, pianos, cabinets, bells, violins, and guitars; and with these things it has tipped and rattled, talked and rapped, fiddled and scribbled, materialized and dematerialized, entranced, demonstrated, and exhibited; it has given utterance to the most profound nonsense; told us many things which we already knew, as well as many other things which we do not yet know; but when we sift it all and look for even a sediment of real instruction, dependable information, and profitable, valuable knowledge, we find that Spiritualism is as barren as the Sahara Desert and as empty as a hollow gourd. And this in spite of the fact that Spiritualists claim they are in touch with hundreds of times as many disembodied spirits as there are men in the flesh, and some are the spirits of inventors, musicians, authors, statesmen, poets, and great thinkers.”

My Visit to the Winchester House

I once visited a house known as the “Winchester mystery house,” one of the weirdest buildings on earth. This strange house was built by Mrs. Winchester of Winchester rifle fame. It is situated about three miles west of San José, California, and covers several acres of land. It is said to have been under construction about thirty-six years, and the sound of hammers never ceased. During this visit the following story was told to me:

Mrs. Winchester is said to have drawn the plans and supervised all the work of construction. And the story is that she carried on the work as directed by the spirits. After being told by a medium that her husband had died because *his work was finished* when he completed the building of a beautiful home, she decided to build a house that would never be finished. She came to California and began to build the “mystery house” as an addition to a ranch house which was already on the ground.

In parts of the building costly woods, gold and silver plated hardware, and art-glass windows from a great firm in New York

were used. One large room in the "mystery house" was entirely filled with built-in cupboards and drawers.

She spent a great deal of money on expensive statues, some of which have now been taken away. Valuable pieces of statuary are still stored in the building, some still crated. Some of them came from Europe. Some are bronzed, and all of them are very costly.

The whole house seems to be a conglomeration of different ideas. The pillars are all upside down. The shutters on the windows are controlled by a unique device. Mrs. Winchester was an inventor, and she invented a mechanical device to open and close the windows, operated by the turning of a little crank. This is a unique invention, found only in that house and nowhere else.

Nobody knows how many windows are in the house, there being thousands and thousands of them, all of different design. There are said to be three thousand window panes in one room alone! Different colors of glass were used on some of them. Many of the windows do not open to any place at all. There are windows just boarded up, windows opening on solid brick walls, and windows in the floor! There are thirteen lamps in the chandeliers, thirteen panels in the walls, thirteen floral designs. There were thirteen carpenters, and some say there were fifty-two servants (four times thirteen) in the house all the time.

One part of the house is a place where nothing but birds are kept. Many rooms were prepared for spirits to occupy. There were a number of spirits there when I was there, but all in the flesh! And we could talk with them. One of my friends thought if the devil ever guided in the building of a place like that, the result would surely bring disrepute on his name. But it is said that this house was built at the behest of the spirits. In the center of this house, with no outside doors, is the famous séance room.

Thirty-six years were the carpenters working on this house. They would tear down a room and build it again. When they would have a section beautifully completed, they would tear it down and construct it again. As long as the hammers were going, Mrs. Winchester felt safe.

There are forty-six fireplaces, some of wonderful workmanship. There are fireplaces of Italian marble, of bamboo, and of fine Japanese lacquer work. Some of these fireplaces have coal, wood, and gas connections, but have no chimneys.

There was a violent shaking at San José at the time of the great

San Francisco earthquake. The great chimney came crashing down, greatly frightening Mrs. Winchester. The doors were jammed so that she could not get out for several hours. She said the earthquake was sent by the spirits because she had used so many valuable jewels and costly ornaments in this home. Therefore, Mrs. Winchester left her beautiful apartment with the great Tiffany art-glass windows, costing a thousand dollars each, the costly genuine mahogany woodwork, and the valuable cherry and rosewood. She left all the valuable things, and commanded her workmen to board up the house. They boarded it up, and she never walked into it again.

She built a new house, working out other designs, and never walked into it again. She built another one and did the same. She finished four houses, having left each on its completion to work on the next, building them all together as one large house.

As one enters a hallway, he can see that the woodwork is beautiful. Yet, with all that work, places of clay brick alone are left. There are rooms all complete but for an unfinished fireplace. There is a room with tar paper still showing on the wall in one place, but with the other parts of the room all polished and finished completely. Every room in the house has something left unfinished, because Mrs. Winchester was afraid if it were completed she would die. The house isn't completed yet—but she is dead!

She thought she would live as long as the place was not completed. She thought she would not die because the spirits had told her she would live as long as her work was incomplete.

It is said that five million dollars was put into the house. Wonderful materials were used. There are gold and silver chandeliers, and art-glass windows inlaid with German silver and bronze. Many of the art windows cost a thousand dollars each. There are windows in the floors. Moonstones are inlaid in the art windows, and the glass bulges at the top; yet, we are told, that is all that saved these windows from the earthquake—they are bent, and thus able to *give*, so the bulging saved them. It is said that some of the bathrooms had twin bathtubs and full-length plate glass windows and doors! The fixtures are gold plated. They were all installed backwards. All the plumbing is put out in the middle of the room, instead of in the side of the wall.

Beautiful windows valued at two thousand dollars adorn the front room. The glass is very valuable, being the kind used in

making astronomical instruments. It is protected now, and no one can get near it. Looking through the top part of the glass, one sees the tops of trees magnified twice their size.

Mrs. Winchester was ahead of her day. She lived before the time of the electric washing machine and other electrical devices. But she invented something to take the place of these things. The washboards she invented extend along the side of a room and are apparently made of cast iron covered with some kind of glaze. She had a washer made right in the tubs, and a line of girls could wash things quickly.

The walk leading from the house to the barn is now a hallway inside the house. The old barn is part of the house. This energetic woman would doubtless have continued building until she reached San Francisco had she lived long enough! There are so many rooms the visitor doesn't have time to go into them all. The guide has arrows on the floors for his own guidance. One chimney is four feet by three feet on the side. It is built through four stories and stops before it reaches the ceiling of the last story. This strange chimney never carried any smoke.

There are one hundred sixty rooms in the house, three elevators, and forty stairways. By the way, one of the elevators, which cost a great deal of money, rises only one story. There are forty-seven blind panels that look like closets. Some of these open into blank space. There are secret passageways throughout the house, and floors laid with trap doors. There is a so-called "goofy" stairway. It takes a person up one side, and on to the end, and on to the top step, then back four times, and in all you rise only ten feet. Two inches high are the steps, yet perfectly made, with a great deal of work having been expended on them. They were made so that the spirits could get up the stairways, I suppose! Electric lights can be turned on and off by button, but the people in the house did not use them for illumination. There are electrical devices for turning the gas on and off. Everything is upside down, topsy-turvy.

There are four fireplaces in one room, a hot-air shaft, and a stove. It was well provided with heat, but in rooms all around it are fireplaces without chimneys, and in many there is no means of heat.

The séance room is in the center of the building, which can be entered by one door. Not until after Mrs. Winchester's death did anyone know there is a secret door leading out of this room. It

opens into a closet, and one can go out but cannot come in. In this same room there were peepholes so that the mistress of the house could watch the girls at work in the kitchen.

But at last, just as to those who do not build five-million-dollar houses, death came to Mrs. Winchester. If the spirits led her, they led her in a strange way.

Friends, the basis of Spiritualism is the teaching that the soul is alive after death. Some churches teach the same thing. Old age creeps upon us; every man must face the great fact of death. But our hope is not in spiritism, our hope is *not in familiar spirits*, but our *faith* is in Jesus Christ. At His coming Jesus Christ will bring immortality to those who believe in Him. (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.) Jesus Christ paid the price for immortality. If we believe, we shall have "life," for Jesus came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly. (St. John 10:10.)

The question, Where are the dead? faces everyone on this earth. The Scripture says, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." St. John 3:16.

Spiritualism teaches that the spirits of the dead hold intercourse with mortals, but this is not according to the Word of God. Here is the test, "If they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

There is no *light* in Spiritualism! It is a doctrine of demons. It has turned many away from Christ, and is still doing the same evil work in the minds of men. Christianity and Spiritualism are in conflict, but the angels of heaven will deliver God's children. Peter was taken out of prison by an angel of God. Angels are all about us. We do not see them, but they still guide and guard the children of God, for God's Word says, "Their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven." St. Matthew 18:10.

May the angels of the Lord, and not the fallen angels (demons) of Satan, be our companions, is my prayer!

Can We Talk With the Dead?

What Is Death?

“God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not *perish*, but have *everlasting life*.” St. John 3:16.

This scripture contains a great truth that has often been overlooked. Not only did God give His beloved Son to die for the sins of all men, but the Scripture says, “Whosoever believeth in Him shall *not perish*, but have everlasting life.” The reverse of this statement, then, is also true. If we do *not* believe in Him, we shall *perish*, and shall *not* have everlasting life.

Everlasting life is life without end, life that lasts eternally. And according to this scripture, St. John 3:16, everlasting life is not natural to man.

St. John 3:15, the verse just before this one, says the same thing: “Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” Perishing is contrasted with everlasting life.

Three widely held beliefs regarding the nature of man are:

1. Some people teach that all have immortality. They believe that man naturally has immortality, that man has something about him that God Himself cannot kill. If a man is good, they believe he goes to be with the Lord at death, but if he is bad, that he goes to an uncomfortable place, but continues to live. This is their view.

2. There is a second view similar to this first view. Those who hold it believe that man naturally possesses immortality, but they differ from the orthodox view in that they believe that sometime, somewhere, all men eventually will be saved. Those who hold this view are termed “Universalists.”

3. The third view is that man is not naturally immortal, but that he is *naturally mortal* and therefore subject to death. They deny that immortality is the natural inheritance of all men, but recognize that it is a free gift from God, that it comes only through Jesus Christ, and is revealed in His gospel. They teach that only the good will live forever.

People everywhere are asking about the immortality of the soul. All over the country we hear them talking about the possibility of communion with the dead. My dear friends, the Scripture clearly answers this great question, and there can be no doubt in our minds about the dead if we will but study His divine Word and accept its plain statements.

The story is told that many years ago a young girl down in Virginia died and was placed in the family crypt. Seven days later the caretaker of the cemetery heard a scream coming from the tomb. He rushed into it and lifted the lid of the coffin from which the screams were coming. The young girl who was thought to be dead had been buried alive. Although she was seven days in the coffin, fifteen months afterward she gave birth to a son who was later world-famous as General Robert E. Lee.

That girl was not dead, she was in a trance. She had been pronounced dead by the physicians, but seven days later she was able to cry out from her prison.

We are not speaking of such, nor of those spiritually "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1), but of people who are dead in the usual sense of the word.

I hold in my hand a clipping from the church page of the Los Angeles *Times* dated February 3, 1934, with the heading: "Mary Baker Eddy Speaks From the Beyond."

The questions arise, my dear friends, Does she speak from the beyond? Does anyone speak from the beyond? Can we talk with the dead? In just a moment we will read the Bible answer.

I hold here a clipping from the New Orleans *Gazette* dated March 19, 1934, with the heading: "Sir Oliver Lodge Describes Death as an Adventure." Sir Oliver Lodge declares, "There is no death in the graveyard," and says that he has "frequent talks with the dead." "I cannot doubt that people live after death, for I frequently talk with them," are his words.

The Reverend Charles Hampton of the Liberal Catholic Church says, "Every human being is *inherently divine*. . . . Immortality is not bestowed after death." He goes on to say that every person, be he Christian, Buddhist, or atheist, is immortal.

This reminds us of certain words in the second chapter of Genesis. God said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:17. But the serpent said, "Ye shall not surely die," but "in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be

opened; and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4, 5. We find this same opinion expressed in the works of many modern writers.

Another statement here ought to interest everybody. I will read it first and then tell you the source. Of a certain idea in the theology of this group, we read: "It regulates the communion of the living with the dead. . . . Tidings to the living *from their friends who have passed away*, do not come in discord and confusion. . . . Knowledge that is needful concerning the spiritual sphere will come through an appointed channel and in an appointed place. *The temple where the ordinance can be administered for the dead, is the place in which to hear from the dead.* The priesthood in the flesh, when it is necessary, will receive communications from the priesthood behind the veil." I have read from "Mormon Doctrine," by Penrose, page 52, which has reference to talking with the dead in Mormon temples.

Now I read from the "National Spiritualist Manual," page 18: "We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proved by the phenomena of Spiritualism." All spiritism teaches that you can communicate with the dead.

Now here is an article about the Yaqui Indians from the Los Angeles *Times* magazine dated November 11, 1934. The writer tells us about a certain regiment of Indians that in 1928 joined the revolution in Mexico. The leader of the regiment returned to Sonora. When asked why he had returned, he said: "I report only to my chief."

"To whom is he referring?" somebody asked.

"The man that called him into service, General Obregon," was the reply.

"I shall report to no one but my chief," the leader of the Yaqui Indians said, and he went out into the graveyard where General Obregon was buried and stayed all night alone. And when asked where he had been, he said, "I have reported to my chief, and I report to no one else." He had been out there "talking to the dead" all night.

Here, friends, I have an interesting letter. The writer says he belongs to the First Methodist Church, but has learned a great deal in the last few months. Permit me to read: "We live on. We never die. The spirit and soul depart from the material at *that* which we call death. Our departed ones are a great deal more

alive than we. It often takes three days for the spirit and soul to be separated from the body."

"I have had the pleasure of *talking recently with Henry Ward Beecher* from the spirit world, and I have had the pleasure of talking with Abraham Lincoln." He says he had "talked with departed friends, and knew their voices." "I have had some splendid messages from the spirit side of life."

I have another letter addressed to me, from a spiritist medium, who lives in Los Angeles. I quote: "Now I shall give spirit Lincoln the ink from this time on." This letter is supposed to be written by the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, to me. "When Jesus talks of death, He means the unregenerated. He does not mean the inanimate clay in the casket. Do you not remember the verse that says 'dead in trespasses and sins'? Ephesians 2:1. That should be plain enough for a man who uses a pulpit. I must tell you, you are a prevaricator."

And it goes on to say how very bad I am, and the spirit of Abraham Lincoln forgets the language of the Gettysburg address, and speaks in the colloquial. In the course of his talk, the medium says, "Now, I take the pen, and from here on I am writing." Here is one little message that the "spirit of Abraham Lincoln" wrote in his letter to me: "You say I lie under the monument. . . ." He is here referring to a statement I made some time ago that he lies under a monument in Springfield, Illinois, remaining an embalmed body. "My, my! if I should want to stay there, the embalming fluid would knock me out, preacher."

It is strange if a man is in the spirit that the embalming fluid would hurt him, but this spurious "Abraham Lincoln" testified that it would be impossible to stay in the body with the fluid if he wanted to! So you see from this letter, the general belief of those who hold such views is that you can talk with the dead.

Here is another letter from a spiritist. It is addressed, "A message in the name of the Lord, by Wisdom, addressed to the Venerable Professor, in whom is restored the incarnation of the soul of the prophet Ezekiel." According to this medium, I am the incarnation of the soul of the prophet Ezekiel!

Notice the words of the writer as he continues, "The second coming of Christ is this twentieth century," and he also says the "great Sabbath rest" began June 12, 1908.

If we are living in the Sabbath day of rest, with all this mur-

der, crime, sorrow, suffering, and death, then God save us from a work day! And this writer goes on to say that certain men today are "dead men" reincarnated, and he tells about talking with them. It is pathetic that the old heathen doctrine of reincarnation is the belief of so many people today.

I received a pamphlet the other day which contains so-called "Spiritual Writings." It says that Theodore Roosevelt, former President of the United States, is the one speaking and doing this writing. "The spirit of Theodore Roosevelt says, 'I leave my message with you. I am glad to talk to you. It is beautiful that I, Theodore Roosevelt, can get back again and talk again.'"

Friends, what says the Word of God? In reading St. John 3:16, we learn that if we believe in Christ we shall not perish, but if we do not believe we shall perish. O friends, if we believe in Him we shall not perish, but have everlasting life. Do you believe that statement in St. John 3:16? Do you believe it in all its implications? I do! I believe the only way to live forever is to live in Jesus Christ and receive His gospel, and thus be a recipient of that wonderful gift of eternal life which God gives to those who accept Him.

In Genesis we have a record of the creation of man. How did God make man? What is man? "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7. It took the union of the "breath of life" with the inanimate form to make a "living soul." It does not say that God gave man an *immortal* spirit, but it does say that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground."

That is just what you are made of. The body is composed of the things you eat, sixteen elements in all. God made man of the dust of the earth. That is true in every particular. God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. When that breath was breathed into his nostrils by God, man, the inanimate form, became a living soul.

Now read with me the seventh chapter of the book of Genesis, from verses 21 and 22: "All flesh died that moved upon the earth [during the flood], both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: *All in whose nostrils was the breath of life*, of all that was in the dry land, died."

Animals and beasts and every creeping thing were made of the "dust of the ground." The materials from which God formed man were not superior to those materials used in making other creatures of this earth. Man was created, physically, but before he could live, God had to breathe into his body the breath of life, as He did the other animate creations. So man shares this "breath of life," this gift of life, with the other animate creations: the birds, the fish, the fowls, the cattle of the fields, the beasts, and every creeping thing, according to the Scriptures.

The breath of life is not a conscious entity. It is a condition different from life. We read in Genesis 2:17 that God warned man about death before sin entered this world: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." The margin says, "Dying thou shalt die."

Man being sinless, death did not mean sin, and it did not mean an enlightened mind. He was already enlightened. He talked with God face to face, and God warned him about death. God addressed him as a complete man before death ever entered this world. Before man sinned God warned him about death as a thing to be feared and avoided. Addressing him as a complete man, He warned him that disobedience would bring death.

Why warn a man who could not die about death? If a man is immortal and cannot die, *why warn him about death?* That death referred to was the spiritual, mortal, physical death of the complete man. We know that Adam did not have immortality *then*, inasmuch as death was threatened. The word "immortal" means *not subject to death*. Adam was subject to death. Adam was not immortal, for he was subject to death; and God warned him that he would surely die if he disobeyed. Adam was not immortal, but he was a candidate for immortality, and so are we.

In Genesis 3:22-24 we find that the Lord spoke of the "tree of life." God said, "Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: [Man had sinned, you see.] and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Why were the cherubim placed at the gate of Eden?—To prevent man from doing the very thing some now claim he is doing, to prevent him from living forever as a sinner. “And now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever,” the Lord drove man from the garden and placed a guard at the gate “to keep the way of the tree of life.”

God has declared that no man can live in sin and live forever. Since an immortal sinner would be an anomaly in God’s moral universe, as soon as man sinned, God excluded him from the tree of life. God thus made it impossible for man to partake of that life-giving tree and thus live forever in sin. The only way in which man can live forever is to break away from sin and be washed in the “Fountain opened to the house of David. . . . for sin and for uncleanness.” Zechariah 13:1. The only way for man to live forever is to receive the gift of life through Jesus Christ, the great antitypical Tree of Life. May God help us to find life eternal in Him! “The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23.

Now read with me the fifth chapter of Romans and the twelfth verse: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

Not having immortality himself, Adam could not bring forth immortal sons or daughters. So, friends, death passed upon all men, for all have sinned. Now it is the part of a man that sins that must die; whatever you believe about it, the part that sins is the part that dies. It is the *real man* that dies.

Does your finger sin? No. Does your toe sin? No. The personality sins, the *real person*, and the part that sins is the part that is punished. Any other construction would be foolish.

“So death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” I want to ask you if all men have *deathlessness*? Some claim that man is immortal, immortality meaning *not subject to death*. The Bible states that “death passed upon all men.” Since it did, all men, being subject to death, are not immortal. They are not immortal; they are mortal, subject to death.

Job says, “Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his Maker?” Job 4:17.

In 1 Timothy 6:16 we read that God “*only* hath immortality.”

Then if God *only* has immortality, does that mean *men* have immortality? No! The only way we can have immortality is by a *gift* from God, who does have it. That is the teaching of the Scriptures.

We read Romans 2:6, 7: "Who will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing *seek* for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life." God will reward eternal life to them who by patient continuance in well doing *seek* His immortality.

Why should we *seek* for something that we already have? If we are already immortal, why should we seek for immortality? God does not mock us, and, friends, God is not mocked. If we seek for immortality in the right place, He will reward us with eternal life. Everything that Adam lost is restored in Christ. (Read 1 Corinthians 15:22.) Adam lost the opportunity to live on forever in that garden of light. "Death passed upon all men," the Scripture says, and the Scriptures, my dear friends, are true.

Jesus Christ came to take the place of Adam and all lost men, and everything lost in Adam is regained in Christ. Therefore, there is a possibility of securing immortality. Of Jesus Christ, we read in 2 Timothy 1:10, "Who . . . hath brought life and immortality to light *through the gospel*."

Thank the Lord, then, we can get immortality. But the only way we can get it is through the gospel. The gospel (good tidings) is the good news that Jesus Christ came from heaven to die for us, and to give us the right to have eternal life. Immortality without the mediation of Jesus Christ is an impossibility. The only way to get immortality is through the mediation of Jesus Christ.

That brings us back to St. John 3:16. Christ is the great Mediator. He takes our place before the wrath of God, receiving on His devoted head the punishment for our sins. If we are in Him by faith, in His death upon the cross, we shall rise with Him to everlasting life.

Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." My dear friends, the devil always pays full wages. God's Word is specific concerning this: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Notice how death is contrasted as being *exactly opposite* to eternal life.

Eternal life is bestowed only on believers. And when is it bestowed upon them? It is bestowed upon believers, and believers alone, at the second coming of Christ. Let me prove this statement from the holy Word of God. I read 1 Corinthians 15:51-54: "Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. . . . When this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

So, you see, immortality is something that we do not have now, but we will have it when the trumpet sounds and Jesus appears. *When* does it sound? At the second coming of Christ, or He shall return, as we read in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Who shall arise at the trumpet sound? The dead in Christ shall rise first. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:17. That is the only way we can ever be with the Lord. The children of God, do not at death go to be with the Lord. When do they go to be with the Lord? When the trumpet sounds. When the trump of God sounds, the sleeping saints shall rise in triumph from their dusty beds, and we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them and shall be translated, "and so shall we ever be with the Lord." What a day of glory and victory that will be!

Just think of—

"Stepping on shore and finding it heaven!
Of taking hold of a hand and finding it God's hand,
Of breathing new air and finding it celestial air,
Of feeling invigorated and finding it immortality,
Of passing from storm and tempest to an unknown calm,
Of waking up and finding it home!"

—*Author Unknown.*

Friends, there are some people in heaven now. Enoch was translated and went to heaven without seeing death. (Read

Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5.) Elijah is there. He also was translated. (Read 2 Kings 2:11.) Moses, the great leader of the Israelites, is there. He died, but was raised from the dead, for he was a type of Jesus, as we read in the book of Deuteronomy. (See Deuteronomy 18:15; Jude 9; Romans 5:14.)

In the Word of God, death is called a sleep. When Jesus came to the home of Lazarus, He said, "Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." When questioned more closely, He said plainly, "Lazarus is dead." St. John 11:11-14. When Jesus came to the tomb of Lazarus, He wept, not because Lazarus was dead, but because of the unbelief of those present, and because of a realization of the hardness of the hearts of those people who later would not only put Him to death but would also try to put Lazarus to death. (Read St. John 12:10.) "Lazarus, come forth!" He cried. He did not call him from the pit of perdition or from purgatory or from heaven, but He simply called, "Come forth!" (Read St. John 11:43.)

The man that had been dead was now alive. At the command of Jesus, "Come forth!" he arose from the dead. The condition of repose in sleep is the condition of death, according to the Scriptures.

In the magazine *Tidbits* there appeared a report of a man whose heart had stopped beating, who was brought back to life by adrenalin administered to the left side of his heart. After fifteen minutes he began to breathe fitfully, then deeply, as though waking from a deep sleep.

"How do you feel?" asked the attending physician. "Did you experience anything?" "No," said the man who had been dead.

"Did you have dreams?"

"No."

"Did you have any conscious sensations?"

"No."

All the man wanted was water. The doctor asked again, "What was it like to be dead? Did you see anybody?"

"No."

"Where have you been?"

"It was as though I were asleep."

While dead, the man had seen nothing, known nothing, and had been absolutely unconscious. Now his lips moved as breathing came more regularly.

"What is it?" asked the nurse. "Does the light hurt your eyes?"

His eyes began to wrinkle up, and he whispered, "Tomorrow, —" The words faded away, and he passed finally to the great beyond.

No! Death is simply an unconscious state. That is what the Scripture tells us in Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, "The living know that they shall die: *but the dead know not anything*, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them [their memory] is forgotten. *Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished*; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun."

Never make the mistake that some people make in trying to evade the force of this scripture, of saying that it applies to the body alone. The statement of the scripture is clear, "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." The part of man that knows now, will *not* know then. Call death what you want to call it, but the part that *knows now* will *not now* then. "The living know: . . . but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward [in this life, of course]; for the memory of them [their memory] is forgotten. *Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished.*"

Don't be afraid of some ghost or hobgoblin coming around. Don't be afraid of them, because "their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." So friends, these "spirits" that return are not the spirits of the dead.

Now do not misunderstand me. I do not claim there are no spirits. I do not claim that people do not see and do not communicate with spirits. I do not deny all that. But I do deny, on the authority of God's Word, that such spirits are connected with the dead. They may *claim* to be the dead, and they may talk with a voice similar to the voice of your dead loved one, and they may say things that you believe are known only to you and your loved one; but that does not prove the spirit is that of your dead loved one.

The masquerading spirit which claims to be the spirit of your loved one may write with the same handwriting as did your departed one, but that proves nothing. Remember, San Quentin and many other prisons are full of men and women who have been so handy with their pens. If a man in the flesh can imitate your

signature, and is still walking around, able to eat bread and potatoes, what about some unseen power that knows all about you? Can you trust it?

Don't trust these unseen spirits. God says the dead have no more "a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." The dead cannot come back. It is impossible. The dead are asleep in repose, and the spirits that claim to be the dead are not the dead.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:10. This does not sound as if the dead are in heaven, does it? But it does prove that the *whole man* dies.

Turn now to Psalms 6:5. Notice what the Lord says there about this same thing, "In death there is no remembrance of Thee: in the grave who shall give Thee thanks?" In death there is no remembrance of God. When a person is dead, that person cannot remember God. He cannot thank God. But does he praise Him? In Psalms 115:17 I read, "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." According to the Word of God the dead do not praise the Lord—and I believe the Word. But I have heard preachers say, when trying to bring some word of comfort to a person bereft of a loved one, "He is up in heaven praising the Lord now." No, he is not. The Scriptures say, "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence."

Not long ago I read an epitaph on a tombstone in a New England cemetery. It ran something like this:

"Here lies the body of Solomon Peaze.

It is not himself, but just his pod.

He's shelled out his soul, and gone up to God!"

Solomon Peaze may have been a good man, but, friends, he did not "shell out his soul" and go up to God. Yes, Solomon Peaze may have been a good man, but Solomon Peaze is not in heaven. Solomon Peaze is sleeping, and, someday, if saved, he will go to be with God; but he is not there now. "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence."

Sometimes people tell us the dead are watching us. I have a letter, addressed to me. It says that while I am speaking, the

dead are around me, and that they are very much chagrined at what I am preaching.

If there are any "spirits" chagrined, I am not chagrined, for I know *they* are not the spirits of the dead. I do know the holy angels of God are about me—not the spirits of the dead—but "angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His Word." Psalms 103:20.

Now let us read Job 14:21: "His sons come to honor, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them."

Did you ever think of this? If the dead did know what their children were doing, don't you think it would keep them in misery and suspense? If a mother should see her daughter going down the primrose path of destruction, do you think she would be happy? I heard a Protestant minister say the dead know what their sons and daughters are doing. How could they be happy if that son or daughter was unhappy or was going on the road to perdition? No; this belief is not according to the Word of God, for it says: "His sons come to honor, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them."

In Psalms 146:4 we read of man in death, "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." So, friends, it is impossible to talk with the dead. Can you talk to a man who has no memory of you, no love, no hatred, no envy, no praise for God, no knowledge of good or evil, and whose every thought has perished? Impossible!

"Do you mean to tell me a man can actually die? Do you mean to tell me his soul can die?"

Let me read from Ezekiel, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4. Shall it live forever? Is that what the verse says? The words are plain: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Not only that, but Jesus, according to Isaiah 53:12, "poured out His soul unto death." Read also St. Matthew 10:28, He "is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Let us take another text, this time Acts 2:27, "Because Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption." This is in Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when he spoke of Christ's death, and His resurrection on the third day, quoting one of the Psalms. (Read Psalms 16:10.)

That word "hell" is "Sheol." as found in Psalms 16:10.

"Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell." Peter quoted this statement in Acts 2:27, applying it to Christ's being in the tomb three days. This scripture cannot apply to David, because David was in the grave, and his grave is here with us. If this can apply to "disembodied spirits," then Peter's argument has no meaning, for the fact that David's body was in the tomb could not prove his soul was not in heaven—if man goes to heaven at death. But Peter says *David* is still here with us.

It cannot apply to David, for David is still here in the tomb. "Men and brethren," Peter said, "let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day." Acts 2:29. That proves he had to experience the resurrection of his body if his soul was not left in the grave.

Now bear in mind that this passage cannot apply to David, for David is still in the grave, according to the Scriptures. To whom does it apply then? He (that is, David) spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul would not be left in hell. Let us read verse 34: "For David *is not ascended* into the heavens." David then had been dead a thousand years. But in the face of that positive statement in the Word of God a Spiritualist says in a letter, "It takes three days for the soul to disentangle itself from the body."

How simple everything is when we believe the plain statements of the Word of God!

All right, so David was not in heaven after he had been dead one thousand years. Of course not. David was sleeping in the grave. Jesus was not left in the grave. He was resurrected. "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for He shall receive me." Psalms 49:15.

So the soul does have something to do with the grave. Now some people say: "You who teach this are 'soul sleepers.'" So are you, no matter what church you belong to! Every soul will "sleep" when dead. That is what death is—a "sleep." Some people do not believe it, but I cannot understand why, when they will go to a hospital and take a whiff of ether, and "know not anything." Where is the undying spirit supposed to be if not unconscious in death? If a little ether will put the soul completely out of consciousness so that it does not know anything, what will death do to it?

And what about natural sleep? When we go to bed we become unconscious. Many of us sleep very poorly at times because of mental or physical disturbances, but death is the cessation of all bodily activities. Death is "sound sleep." And just as the whole man rests, so the whole man will come forth at the resurrection.

In St. John 5:28, 29 Jesus said:

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Jesus says they *are* in their graves *now* and that they will hear the call from there.

Death is pictured as a sleep in Job 17:13, "If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness." Job exclaims, "O that Thou wouldst hide me in the grave, that Thou wouldst keep me secret, until Thy wrath be past, that Thou wouldst appoint me a set time, and remember me!" Job 14:13. Job 7:21 says, "For now shall I sleep in the dust."

We read the sixth chapter of the book of Revelation, the fourteenth verse—and there is something here that all should consider—"The heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places."

When is that to happen? At the second coming of Christ. Now read Job 14:12: "So man lieth down, and riseth not: *till the heavens be no more*, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Then when will they arise? At the second coming of Christ. This shows the great meaning of the resurrection of our Christ.

If the people of the world, from the days of Adam to the days of Christ, were already in heaven, then why, and under what kind of argument, could we say their salvation *depended* on the death and resurrection of Christ? If the saints of the ages before Christ's crucifixion were already in heaven, how did their salvation depend upon the cross?

What did Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 15:17, 18, when he used this language: "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

My dear friends, how could their eternal life depend upon

the resurrection of Christ, *if they were already in heaven?* If the saints were already there, what difference would it make if He arose or not? If they were already in heaven, did eternal life depend upon His resurrection? However, the apostle says if there be no resurrection of the dead, if Christ rose not, there can be no hope for us; and those who died, believing in Christ, and believing He would give them eternal life, are forever perished. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." 1 Corinthians 15:20. Christ is the firstfruits, the perfect One, the evidence and assurance of the great harvest soon to be gathered! "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." Verse 23.

"At His coming." That is the time, my dear friends, when we shall be raised from the dead. Beautiful are the words of Job when he said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job 19:25, 26.

Job looked for the resurrection from the dead. David said in Psalms 17:15, "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness." He considered death a sleep. Isaiah declared, "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." Isaiah 26:19.

St. Luke says they that serve Him may receive but little in this life, but they shall be remembered. When shall they be remembered? "At the resurrection of the just." St. Luke 14:14. That is the time. The scripture does not say we will go to Him, but it does say He will come for us, as we read in the fourteenth chapter of St. John, verses one to three: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

He is coming for us. We are not going to Him. That is the promise of the second coming. "Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the

clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." St. Matthew 24:30, 31. If we do not *believe*, we shall not see life, for in St. John 3:36 we read, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

The only way to live forever is to accept God's plan, accept His Son, and accept His way. And sometime soon all sinners will be eliminated from the universe. In Psalms 37:28 we read that the wicked will not live forever in this universe: "For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved forever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."

Read the twenty-ninth verse: "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever." The righteous shall inherit the land, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. Now read the thirty-eighth verse: "But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off."

God will destroy the impenitent, finally. They shall not inherit the land, but they shall be cut off. And Revelation, chapter five, verse thirteen, declares that when that glorious day comes, every voice upon the earth, and every voice under the earth, and every voice which is in heaven will be heard, saying: "Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever."

God will have every soul give Him glory. There will be no moral cesspool in God's universe then, no sinners to be burned eternally. Christ is man's only refuge. He is man's only Saviour. In Hebrews 2:14 we read the reason *why* He came to this earth. It *was to destroy him* who had the power of death—the devil. Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of the devil, and someday Satan and sin will be forever destroyed.

Satan, his angels, and all the wicked will be destroyed in the 'lake of fire.' This is the end of sin and sinners, and it is called 'the second death.' (Revelation 20:14, 15.) This is the "eternal ire" (Jude 7; 2 Peter 2:6; Malachi 4:1-4) which was "prepared for the devil and his angels" (St. Matthew 25:41); it will purify the earth. Then before the admiring eyes of the redeemed will appear a new heaven and a new earth wherein they will dwell!

And in St. John 10:10, He says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Abundant life means eternal life. In Colossians 3:3 we read: "Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." And in St. John 17:3: "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

The only way to know Him is to live with Him and to live as long as He lives. This is life eternal, that we might know Him whom to know is life eternal. May God help us to have that eternal life, and may God help us to accept His plan and program, so that our lives may measure up with the standard set by God, and that it may not be our way, but God's way, for the victory is found only in Jesus Christ.

"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57. They who sleep in Him shall awake at the sound of the trumpet, and they who are alive and remain, together with the dead in Christ, shall be caught up together to meet the Lord. "God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10.

Does your heart not burn within you when you think of His glorious return? when you think of that beautiful city that will be the habitation of God's elect? O friends, to gaze on the Saviour's face! What joy it will be to be there!

Now a few questions:

1. If men do not die, why did God send Adam and Eve away from the tree of life? (Genesis 3:23, 24.)

2. If man does not die, why does God say that he does? (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23.)

3. If men do not die, who told the truth, God or Satan? Friends, if God did not tell the truth, then Satan told the truth when he said, "Thou shalt not surely die."

a. If men do not die, Satan told the truth.

b. If men do die, God told the truth.

c. If men do not die, God was guilty of falsehood!

4. If man does not die, why does God promise him life? (St. John 3:16.)

5. If man does not die, why did Jesus die to save him from death? (Hebrews 2:14.)

6. If man does not die, what is the need of a resurrection?
(1 Corinthians 15:21.)

7. If man does not die, why does Job ask, "Shall he live again?" (Job 14:14.)

8. If man is immortal and cannot die, why does God promise immortality at the resurrection? (1 Corinthians 15:52, 53.)

9. If a man does not die, why did Jesus say Lazarus was dead? (St. John 11:14.)

10. If men do not die, why did Paul say he was ready to die? (Acts 21:13.)

11. If a man does not die, why did Jesus say: "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore." (Revelation 1:18.)

12. If a man does not die, why did Jesus say He must die? (St. Luke 18:33.)

13. If a man does not die, why is he afraid of death? (Hebrews 2:15.)

14. If a man does not die, why promise him life? (Romans 6:23.)

15. If men do not die, are they buried alive?

16. If men do not die, was Jesus buried alive? (St. Matthew 27:57-60.)

17. Did both body and soul of Jesus die? Hebrews 10:10 ays, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of he body of Jesus Christ once for all." "Because He hath poured ut His soul unto death." Isaiah 53:12.

18. Was it His soul then that arose? "He seeing this before sake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in ell, neither His flesh did see corruption." Acts 2:31.

This is a list of questions, prepared by Pastor Martin A. Hollister, which cannot be answered unless we take the Bible aching on the subject. Thus we see that although the people of od may fall asleep in death, they will come forth on the resur- ction morning. Showing Himself to His apostles after His surrection, Jesus said, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit [phantom] hath not sh and bones, as ye see Me have." St. Luke 24:39.

In Romans 8:11 we read: "If the Spirit of Him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ om the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit it dwelleth in you."

O friends, how wonderful it is to know the plain teaching of God on this great question! "I shall be satisfied when I awake in Thy likeness!" May that be the cry of every one who hears this appeal. And if we fall asleep in Christ, may we have so lived that we can lie down in sweet repose, knowing we shall awake on that glorious day when the trump shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise!

"The mossy old graves where the pilgrims sleep
Shall be opened as wide as before,
And the millions that sleep in the mighty deep
Shall live on this earth once more."

—*Author Unknown.*

The Sabbath of the Lord Thy God

We will consider the following points: (1) The making of the Sabbath, (2) The so-called Sunday texts in the Bible, (3) Who changed the Sabbath? (4) The origin of Sunday keeping.

We are limited for time and will just have to go as far as we can tonight! Over in Europe when they are holding a long meeting, you will see people *standing* here and there in the audience, so if you wish to stand to rest yourself, stand—do anything, as long as it is proper and in order. Come and go as you please.

My text tonight is a scripture which is pre-eminently fitting in considering the Sabbath question. It is found in First Corinthians the second chapter and the first two verses: "I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

If the Sabbath is in Christ, then we want the Sabbath. If Christ is in the Sabbath, then we want Christ and the Sabbath. Anything that is connected with the Lord Jesus Christ and with the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ we always want. I read words to that effect over in First Peter, the second chapter and the twenty-first verse, where we are told that Christ left us an example, that we should follow His steps.

I wonder how many of us here tonight would be willing to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ as revealed and recorded in His New Testament word. May I see your hands? I think every true Christian will be able to vote Yes on that—that we should follow the example of Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament—an example every Christian *should* follow, all that He did and all that He taught, as recorded in the Word of God. In the first chapter of Acts we find the great principle laid down by St. Luke, the beloved physician, who, being a doctor, was explicit and exact in what he said and did. We read verse one: "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach." The "former treatise" mentioned

here is the Gospel of St. Luke. So the example and teaching of Christ, as recorded in the New Testament, is the basis for all doctrine, and for all action, and for all Christian living, to all who are Christ's.

In the third chapter of 2 Timothy, the fifteenth to the seventeenth verses, we find the words of the great apostle Paul in reference to the basis of Bible doctrine: "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Now, my dear friends, if we go outside the Bible for our doctrine, we make a great mistake. The apostle Paul says the Bible was given by inspiration of God, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. If we are wrong in regard to the Sabbath, here in the Holy Scripture we will find our "wrongness," because the *words of the Bible* must stand for the *foundation of all faith*. When Jesus Christ came He came as the Incarnate Word, "the *Word* was made *flesh* and dwelt among us." (Read St. John 1:1-3, 14.) We behold God's word in a human life. What the Bible teaches, Jesus Christ lived; therefore His example is harmonious with what is in the Bible, for the Bible was written by the Lord Jesus Christ, through His Holy Spirit. (Read 1 Peter 1:11.)

When the prophets of old wrote, they wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and when they spoke, they spoke by the Spirit of Christ which was in them. (2 Peter 1:21.) The Old Testament as well as the New Testament is largely concerned with the Lord Jesus Christ and His teaching. The four Gospels show the life and teachings of Christ, the Epistles contain His doctrine as revealed by the Holy Spirit through the the apostles, and the book of Revelation is the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ which God gave through John. Therefore, the *entire Bible reveals Christ and His teaching, or doctrine*. We have no authority to refuse to listen to the words of Christ as He *teaches* in the Old and New Testaments, but I am willing to stand by the *example* of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament.

Here is His example with reference to the Sabbath. Read with

me the fourth chapter of St. Luke, the sixteenth verse: "And He [this means Christ] came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, *as His custom was*, He went into the synagogue on the *Sabbath day*, and stood up for to read." This custom of our Lord Jesus Christ's was a "Sabbathkeeping" custom. It was *His custom* to go to the synagogue and take part in the services on the *Sabbath day*, and the people recognized Him as Rabbi and Teacher. And He read from the Book and taught from it. After He had read from it, He sat down and began to speak unto them.

So His custom was a Sabbathkeeping custom, and you may read all the Gospels and you will find that He gave only a Sabbathkeeping example. Jesus grew up in a Sabbathkeeping home. His parents were Jewish; they attended the synagogue, and Jesus went with them. The little carpenter shop in Nazareth was closed on Sabbath, but open the first day of the week doing business. Jesus grew up in a Sabbathkeeping home, and we have here the record that later in His life His custom was to go into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and to take part in the services.

The church of Jesus Christ is built upon Christ and His example, and in the sixteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, verse 18, we read: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail." *Jesus Christ was the rock* upon which the church was builded, for in 1 Corinthians 3:11 we read: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Peter himself declares that Christ is the "Rock." (Read 1 Peter 2:4-8.) Since the church is built upon Jesus Christ, the Rock, the doctrines which it follows, therefore, must be founded on Christ. And, friends, if we have to go outside Christ to find the Sabbath, we have no use for it, for it must be built upon the Rock, which is Christ Jesus.

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

The example of Christ must have taken a great hold on those who were with Him. Those women who followed Him from Galilee—Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and others, must have been greatly impressed by the example of Christ, for we find that after He died on the cross, they went on living

the way He had taught them to live. The twenty-third chapter of St. Luke's Gospel gives the record of the crucifixion and tells about the women who followed Him from Galilee. In the fifty-third verse we find that Joseph of Arimathaea begged the body of Jesus from Pilate; he took it down from the cross, wrapped it in linen, and placed it in the sepulcher. "And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on." Verse 54.

The day of "preparation" is the day before the Sabbath, and Jesus was crucified on the *preparation day*. I will prove that statement by reading to you the fifteenth chapter of St. Mark and the forty-second verse: "Now when the *even* was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the *day before the Sabbath*." So the preparation day is what day? The day before the Sabbath. It was the day before the Sabbath that Christ was crucified. You can talk about His being crucified on Wednesday, Thursday, or some other day; but the Bible says He was crucified the day before the Sabbath, or the preparation day.

All through the Bible we find that a day begins at sundown. In the first chapter of Genesis we read, "The evening and the morning were the first day." God went on about His creative work and then said, "The evening and the morning were the second day." It took the darkness and the light to make a complete day, and the *dark part* came first. When does the "even" begin? It comes at sunset. Now read the first chapter of St. Mark and the thirty-second verse: "At *even*, when the sun did set." When is evening? At sunset.

In St. Luke 23:54-56 we read: "And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on." It was even, and the Sabbath was drawing on when they laid Him in Joseph's new tomb. "And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how His body was laid." The women were His disciples. They had been with Him throughout His ministry. They knew His teachings, His example; and they followed on behind and saw the sepulcher, the grave He was to be buried in, and how His body was laid in it, and then they returned. This grave was outside the city. The women returned to the city and "prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment."

This was in the Christian dispensation, for the Christian dispensation began at Christ's death. The *Cross of Christ sealed all*,

and whether it be five minutes, five years, or five centuries after His death, man has been in the Christian dispensation.

These women were Christ's disciples; they had listened to His teachings through the years of His ministry. And they saw that Friday how His body was laid, went back to the city, prepared the spices, and made ready the material to embalm His precious body. But they did not embalm it on the Sabbath. They did not go back to do it on God's Sabbath day. They "rested," according to God's commandment. The Sabbath commandment is in force in the Christian dispensation, and they evidently had been taught by Jesus Christ to do the very thing they did. Therefore, I say, the commandment led them not to purchase on the Sabbath, but to observe the Sabbath day "according to the commandment."

Now what is the Sabbath commandment? Where is it? To that commandment did the apostle Luke refer when he said they "rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment"? The commandment in reference to the Sabbath is found in Exodus the twentieth chapter and the eighth to the eleventh verses. It is one of the ten commandments.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

This commandment refers back to the creative power of God, when He made the world and all it contains. When those women observed the Sabbath, they did it according to the Sabbath commandment, because the identical day was mapped out four thousand years before they lived. Therefore, the Sabbath kept by Christ was the Sabbath those women kept. They imitated Him in keeping His Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation. And do not forget this: the *calendar in use in the time of Christ*, the Julian calendar, was arranged by the authority of Julius Caesar *forty-six years before Christ*, more than seventy-five years before these women went to embalm His body at the tomb. That calendar, without any modification whatever so far as *weeks* are concerned, is the calendar that hangs in your kitchen today!

Talk about lost time! Nobody but one ignorant of the facts or one who is trying to make out a case against the Sabbath would ever speak of time's being lost since the days of Christ. The Sabbath kept by our Saviour and the holy women was the Sabbath day kept, and today the Jews, seventeen million strong, are still memorializing that day. Of course they are not keeping it properly, but they recognize the day as the Sabbath. The day they recognize is the day your calendar says is Sabbath, the seventh day of the week—an unbreakable chain of evidence that the Sabbath day is the same one God pronounced holy about six thousand years ago. This is the Sabbath day of the commandment. That was the example of Christ, and it was followed by those holy women of old. And Christ's example and teaching was sealed by His sacrificial death upon the cross.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

—Isaac Watts.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my Lord.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

If Christ's death and example mean anything at all to you, you should decide this night for Him and for His Sabbath.

Now we are going to do a little Bible surveying.

Who made the Sabbath and how was it made? I am going to read a very important Bible text that gives us authority for this Bible survey—St. Matthew 15:13, "Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." If God has planted the Sabbath, it will stand forever. If He has not planted it, it will be rooted up. If God has planted Sunday, it will stand forever; if He has not, it will be rooted up.

Turn with me now to the first chapter of Revelation, the tenth verse, and we will start our Bible surveying. This is one of the most wonderful verses in the whole Bible. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice." According to this statement, *God has a day*. "I [John] was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." Now, I have heard people say that it does not

matter what day we keep, that all days are alike holy. I do not believe it. This scripture says *the Lord has a day*. From the words "in the Spirit on the Lord's day," do we not see that the Lord has a *day*? You may believe it is Saturday, or you may believe it is Sunday. And Mohammedans think it is Friday, for that is the day they go to the mosque to worship.

This idea that all days are alike is erroneous. The Book of God says, "I was in the Spirit on the *Lord's day*." And we will drive the first stake there: God has a day!

Now we *know* He has a day, but we do not know (1) what day of the week it is, or (2) what it is called, or (3) who made it. In making a survey we must have a starting point, and then we can find our way right through without any trouble at all. We will make our *base line* then: "*God has a day*." We all agree to that. Methodists, Presbyterians, Christians, Russellites, "Four-squareites," and all other "ites" agree that God has a day if they agree with the Bible. Some people's theology is better than that which their church teaches. Some people may call you heterodox; but it is best to be "Bibledox" any day!

All right, God has a day. (Revelation 1:10.) Now turn with me to St. Mark 2:27 and 28: "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore, the Son of man is *Lord also of the Sabbath*."

Then, dear friends, what day is the Lord's day? It is the *Sabbath*. He is Lord of a day, and that day of which He is the Lord is the Lord's day, is it not? If Sunday is the Lord's day He is Lord of it, isn't He? *No*. The Bible plainly says He is Lord of the Sabbath day. This does not say what day of the week it is, but it says it is the Sabbath. And the Lord is Lord of the Sabbath day. If He is Lord of the Sabbath, then the Sabbath is the Lord's day.

In Revelation 1:10 the words "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" do not mean "day of judgment," "day of Pentecost," "day of death"—but a twenty-four-hour day. That is exactly what they mean. (See Strong's Concordance.) "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day," all the twenty-four hours of which belong to the Lord.

We read in the second chapter of St. Mark and the twenty-seventh verse: "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath." The Bible says here that the day of which He is the

Lord is the Sabbath day. And we will drive our *second stake* here at St. Mark 2:27. We have two stakes now, and when one has two he can sight a straight line. Take your Bible transit through to St. Mark 2:27, 28. First, we found *the Lord has a day*; second, *day*.

we found that the day the Lord claims as His is *called the Sabbath*

"But," you say, "you have not told us yet what day is the Sabbath day." Take another step, and drive your third stake at the fourth chapter of Hebrews. We are talking now about Christ and His day, and that day has been called the Sabbath; but we do not know what day of the week it is. Now get ready to drive your stake down. Follow right through with this Bible survey to verse 4 and read: "He spake in a certain place of the *seventh* day on this wise, And God did rest the *seventh* day from all His works."

What day did He speak about? The *seventh* day. What did He do on the seventh day? He rested from all His works. What does Sabbath mean? It means "rest." It must mean, then, that He was talking about the *Sabbath* when He spoke of the day He rested, for He said, "God did rest the *seventh* day."

Now, let us see if we can find another place where He said that, for we have two texts for this stake. Genesis, the first chapter, gives us a record of the creation of the world. It is out of harmony with some theories of biology—evolution, too! The Bible teaches the world came to be through creation, by the *fiat* creation of God. "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." Psalms 33:9. This world was not made from things that do appear (Hebrews 11:3), but was made by the eternal power of God, by the words of His mouth. He made all the different orders of living beings upon it in one hundred forty-four hours, or six days. In the record, at the close of the sixth day of creation, we read these words:

"And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:31. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." Genesis 2:1-3.

It is to this work of creation that the writer of Hebrews referred. In Hebrews 4:4 He spoke about the seventh day, and said He rested on that day; and in Genesis we read that God blessed and sanctified the seventh day because He had rested from His labors.

This is the record of the institution of the Sabbath. It was made on the seventh day of creation, made a memorial of the creative power of God. God made everything in six days. The record says that God rested on the seventh day; therefore, the seventh day was past before the events of the next day began. Did God rest because He was weary? No. The Scripture says God is never weary (Isaiah 40:28), He never slumbers nor sleeps. (Read Psalms 121:4.)

Why did He rest? One reason is this: "He rested on the first Sabbath for *our* example." (See Lange's Commentary.)

Now, the seventh day is over and God *blessed* the seventh day (past tense). Remember, He didn't bless it till it was *over*, showing that it was not that single day, but every succeeding seventh day to the end of time which He blessed. God rested on the seventh day before He blessed the seventh day in perpetuity. Then He sanctified it. *First*, God rested at the close of creation; *second*, He put His blessing upon the day on which He had rested; *third*, He sanctified it. To *sanctify* is to set apart for holy use.

The only persons who could rest on the Sabbath just then were Adam and Eve, the founders of the human race; therefore, when God gave it to them, He gave it to the whole human race. So also, when God gave them marriage, He gave it to the whole human race. He gave the Sabbath to the whole human race, inasmuch as the whole human race then consisted of Adam and Eve.

You cannot find a place where the Word of God says the Lord sanctified and blessed the first day. There is no basis for Sunday sanctification in the Bible. Sunday is the only day that cannot be Sabbath. God could have worked five days and rested on the sixth day; He could have worked four days and rested on the fifth day, and had a period of four or five days to the week. He could have worked three days and rested the fourth. He could have worked two and rested the third. He could have worked one day and rested the second day, but God could not rest and work at the same time; hence the first day of the week cannot be a memorial of the finished work of creation.

So we have three stakes. The *first stake* is in Revelation 1:10: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." The *second stake* is in St. Mark 2:27, 28: "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore, the Son of man is *Lord also of the Sabbath*." The *third stake* is in Genesis 2:1-3. The *seventh day* of the week was appointed by God's resting and blessing and sanctifying the Sabbath. The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. That chain of argument cannot be broken. That is Bible, pure and undefiled. I have seen people try to get around those texts, but they have never succeeded.

We read in the fourth commandment, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Some people say, "That looks true, but—" The Lord says, "But the seventh day is the Sabbath." If God is your Lord, then you are to keep the Sabbath day. Regardless of what church you belong to, "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." You say, "That looks reasonable, but—" "*But* the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

All sorts of excuses are brought up, especially the one about the so-called *loss* of time. People say, "Can we trace the Sabbath down?" Yes, we can. We will do that briefly. Someone says, "Maybe the Hebrews lost track of it down in Egypt." Did they? No. When God sent Moses down to bring them out of Egypt, they had assimilated heathen customs, and Moses turned the attention of the Israelites to the true Sabbath. No doubt they were beginning to forget the true God.

The fifth chapter of Exodus and the fifth verse tells us that Pharaoh had said, "Why do you make the people rest from their labors?" The original Hebrew says, "You make the people sabbatize, or keep Sabbath."

The people of Israel asked, "Who is God? What is His name?" Moses replied, "God is the great Jehovah who created the world and rested on the Sabbath." Pharaoh didn't like the Sabbath, because it did not harmonize with his labor plans. And, friends, "Old Pharaoh" doesn't like it any better today! He doesn't like it any better now when his labor plans are spoiled. "You do make my people keep the Sabbath. Get out of here." The time came in Egypt when God's people couldn't live and keep the Sabbath, and *when that time comes again, God will take His own out of modern Egypt*. Christ is soon coming, and He will deliver us from this "Egyptian" bondage!

The children of Israel were taken out of Egypt to a place near Mt. Sinai. We read that the people were hungry and God sent them manna from heaven. They ate the bread of "the mighty," or "angels' food," as it was called. Psalms 78:25. A well-known author of today said he had been on Sinai Peninsula and had eaten manna. But I do not believe it. He never ate manna! I dare say he ate the juice of some desert plant that is called manna. You can call it manna, but it isn't angels' food. Angels do not have to pick off and eat the little knobs of plants to get strength. The manna in the wilderness was produced miraculously, just as were the opening of the Red Sea, the pillar of fire, and the water that flowed from the rock. It was a miracle. God gave the people of Israel angels' food. They had bread from the omnipotent God. So with the Sabbath. We partake of God's holy day.

You say, "What has that to do with it?" In the sixteenth chapter of Exodus we read that on the sixth day the Israelites gathered twice as much manna as on the other days. Now, my dear friends, if they had forgotten the days of the week they wouldn't have known when the sixth day came, to get this manna for the Sabbath; therefore, we know they had not forgotten. On the other days the Lord sent just enough for one day. On the sixth day He sent enough for two days. For forty years of wandering the people had this continual reminder of the true order of the days of the week, and this alone should forever make clear the holy Sabbath day. No, they had not forgotten it. This was before Mt. Sinai, before God wrote the fourth commandment on tables of stone and handed it down to man. Before He wrote it, He spoke it. We find in the twentieth chapter of Exodus that when He gave the fourth commandment of the decalogue, He referred to creation as the origin of the Sabbath.

So the Sabbath of Mt. Sinai was the Sabbath of creation. No day was lost for twenty-five hundred years—between creation and Mt. Sinai.

Now we can take another step of our Bible survey, this time from Mt. Sinai to the cross. Those women who came with Jesus and who were at the tomb kept the Sabbath day according to the commandment. From this fact we know that the commandment Sabbath is the Christian Sabbath; they are identical. From the cross to our time it is exactly the same, and no historian, nor Jewish writer, nor archaeologist, nor astronomer, nor theologian, can

stand up and say that the days of the week in the time of Christ are not identical with the days of the week now. Of course, nobody doubts that they are unless he is trying to wriggle around the Sabbath obligation.

"Well," some people say, "if you call any day the Sabbath it is Sabbath." Once a grandfather asked the children, "How many legs has a sheep if I call his tail a leg?" "Five," replied Johnny. "Wrong," said grandpa, "for to call his tail a leg doesn't make it one." Likewise, to call Sunday the Sabbath doesn't make it the Sabbath.

One says, "Maybe time was lost in the Dark Ages." No, time was not lost then. The Jews were scattered among all nations. In Deuteronomy, God said He would scatter them. (Read Deuteronomy 28:25.) The Jew is a fulfillment of a Bible prophecy. The unbelieving Jew proves Christ. We have learned that the Jews in all the world have kept separate records. The Jew, everywhere, is proof. His calendar is true right down through the years, and in it the days of the week coincide with ours.

The Dark Ages were days of persecution, but in the monasteries and churches of the Roman Catholics and the Greek Catholics, records were kept of the days, months, and years. Also the Waldenses in the Alps and others down in the Balkan Peninsula, kept the records. The Greek church with its seventy million, the Roman Catholic with its two hundred million, will tell you the seventh day is the Sabbath. The Mohammedans with their two hundred million will tell you that Friday is the sixth day; and since that is true, we know Saturday is the seventh day. The Protestants say it is the seventh day. All the laws of Christendom will tell you Saturday is the seventh day. All the chronological records will tell you the same thing.

I was talking once to a dear old Presbyterian lady ninety years of age, who lived in the province of Quebec. She lived there in an old house built a hundred years before. I said to her, "Granny, what about this question of the seventh day?" She replied, "You can't make me believe Saturday is the seventh day." I said, "It is, just the same. I keep it because the Bible says to keep the Sabbath day." "No," she said, "I'll never believe it." She was a good Christian, but a little set in her ways, and after growing up with things, she found it hard to change. The day after our talk her minister came along, and she said to him, "Reverend So-and-So,

isn't it true that Sunday is the seventh day?" "No." "Do you mean to tell me *Sunday is not the seventh day?*" "No, Saturday is the *seventh* day." "Well," she said, "I have been keeping Sunday because I thought it was the seventh day. The catechism says the commandments are eternal. Do you mean to tell me Sunday is the first day?" "Yes." "I will never keep another one, then," she said. That is the kind of Presbyterian I like. I like those people who grow up on oatmeal and the Shorter Catechism! They are hard to convince, but once convinced they stand true.

I shall never forget a certain family of Highland Scotch Presbyterians. The mother was a mighty bulwark for the Lord, and how she rejoiced and gathered her family around her when she saw the truth! When their preacher came out to show her she was wrong, and to defend his pastoral position (He even tried to make her believe the ten commandments were abolished.) her Presbyterian blood could stand it no longer. I was present and said to him, "Dear friend, I am a Presbyterian in my doctrine as far as the law of God is concerned. I have here in my hand a catechism of the Presbyterian Church, which says, 'The moral law of God doth forever bind all.' That is what the church teaches." His only aim was to get away from the Sabbath.

All the great Protestant churches teach that the seventh day of the week is Saturday. Look at the astronomical section in your old almanac. It will tell you, between advertisements for patent medicines, that the Sabbath is the seventh day.

Then at the great astronomical observatory scientists will tell you what day is the Sabbath according to astronomy. Not long ago a friend of mine visited the observatory and asked of the man there, "Has any *time* been lost?" He replied, "No sir, not one second of time has been lost as far back as man can go, thirteen hundred years before Christ." My friend asked, "What would you do if every almanac in the world were destroyed and every calendar, and if everybody would forget the day of the week? Could you tell the date by looking at the stars?" He answered, "Give me this telescope and this piece of paper, and in two hours I can tell you the year, month, week, and day." God's great calendar above never loses a second of time.

On a visit to Ottawa, Canada, I saw astronomers getting the time from the stars. Each time the skies were clear they would make their calculations. The astronomer had a book of mathe-

matical formulas. He opened his book, consulted the formula, and turned a lever, which moved the great telescope to a certain spot in the sky. On the sights of the telescope was a thread-like line resembling a filament from a spider's web. "Watch, and you will see a star pass over that line," said the man. "There!" And as he said it, *to the second*, the star was bisected by the fine line! The light we saw had left *that* star more than two hundred years before. Such is God's great clock in the heavens. Men do not set the stars by their watches; they set their watches by the stars. When the chronometer clicked the second, the star was there.

No time has been lost; but some of us, I fear, have lost time trying to lose the Sabbath! Let us redeem the time by taking our stand to obey God on this great truth.

Some of you say, "Maybe time was lost when Joshua made the sun stand still." Was there any time lost when he made the sun stand still? No, there was not. The great astronomer, E. W. Maunder, of England, our own Professor R. E. L. Totton of the United States Naval Academy, and others, proved it. Even the Bible record is clear on that, for it speaks of the event as one long day, as it was so regarded at that time. That day was extraordinarily long. It did not end until the sun set. Do not try to keep your Sabbath by your clock. Keep it by God's clock.

To those observing it as a sabbath, Sunday begins at midnight. It is a festival day. Some people go out to dances Saturday night, have a good time, and say, "I can't stop now," so someone turns the clock back. How does that act affect time? What about daylight-saving time, with that extra hour at midnight? Is it holy time? No, it isn't holy. If you were taught that it is holy, you would object. If the preacher was told so, he would protest.

You say, "We have changed from old style time to new style; maybe time was lost then." You know, my dear friends, suppose I should come downstairs and say to my wife, "I have lost a hundred dollars," and she should reply, "Where? *Where* did you lose it?" And I should answer, "Right in the *drawer* where I keep it!" Would that money be lost? But, friends, if we thought some time was lost, and we knew how *much*, and *when* and *where*, is it *lost*?

When Pope Hildebrand (sometimes called Pope Gregory VII) revised the calendar, he did nothing with the week. Pope Gregory

left the week unchanged. Here is what he did: On October 5, 1582, he decided to drop ten days and call the next day October 16, 1582. People went to bed on Wednesday, October 5, 1582, and got up Thursday, October 16, 1582. Later on when the English government incorporated this change in the calendar in England, some ignorant people said, "Give us back our ten days!" They thought Parliament had robbed them of ten days of life. That shows how ignorant people are on some things. Well, friends, the seventh-day Sabbath has come down to us without interference from any man-made laws.

Now, we will read the so-called Sunday texts in the Bible, the texts covering the origin of Sunday keeping.

I met a lady who said, "I know hundreds of places where the Bible speaks of Sunday." "Well," I said, "I am glad to meet you, because I have been looking for those texts all my life." So we took the Bible, and as we searched, her attitude changed. I was reminded of the man and the Kilkenny cats. He said there were one thousand cats on the roof, but as the story was narrowed down he said five hundred, then one hundred, and when it came down to the facts he admitted there were only two cats fighting on the roof. When I said again, "How many texts are there?" She said, "About fifty."

I took the Bible, turned to the first chapter of Genesis, and read, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. . . . And the evening and the morning were the *first day*." Genesis 1:2-5. That is the only place in the Old Testament the *first* day of the week is mentioned—just *once* in the Old Testament.

"Well," she said, "the New Testament is full of it. Open the Bible anywhere, and you will find it." So we began to open the Bible and look through it. "Yes," she stated, "my preacher said there are lots of them over here." I said, "I wish he were here. Now, we will turn to St. Matthew and read it together." The first verse of the last chapter of St. Matthew says, "In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the *first day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary." St. Matthew 28:1.

Now, *there* is one of the great pillars for Sunday sacredness!

This was written about 39 A. D., *several years after* Jesus had gone back to heaven; if Sunday were holy and sacred *it ought to have been noted by that time*. But it is not called the Sabbath here in Matthew; it is called the *first* day of the week, its old Jewish name. The Jews did not have names for the days as we have them today; they had numbers. Sabbath was the only day that had a real name. They called Sunday one; Monday, two; Tuesday, three; Wednesday, four; Thursday, five; and Friday they called the preparation day; and then Saturday, the Sabbath.

After Jesus had gone to heaven, when St. Matthew wrote the facts about the resurrection, he said simply that Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week. His rising on the third day after His death was a fulfillment of prophecy. (Read St. Matthew 16:21.)

"Well," the lady said, "the text that says Sunday is the Sabbath, the Lord's day, *must* be over in Mark." So we turned to the last chapter of St. Mark—St. Mark 16:1-4—and read, "When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away." This was written about 67 A. D., according to Bible scholars. In the Christian dispensation, when St. Mark speaks about the same thing, he still calls the first day the *first* day. He does not call it the Sabbath. The first day does not come, you see, until after the Sabbath is past.

"I *know* it is over in Luke some place," she said. "I *know* Luke says it is the Lord's day." "I am interested," I said. So I turned to St. Luke the last verse of the twenty-third chapter and the first verse of the twenty-fourth chapter, and read how these women observed to do according to the commandment, "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they went to church to observe the *first* day of the week." Now this woman was a good woman, a good Protestant, and she quickly said, "Here! You made a mistake!" So I began to read again, "Now upon the first day of the week very early in the morning, they went to *Sunday school*." "No! It doesn't say that!" "Well," I said "you act as if it said that." I read the verse as it is in the Bible, "They

came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared." I said to the lady, "My dear friend, they had rested all day Sabbath according to the commandment, and on Sunday they did not go to church; they went to work." She exclaimed, "Is that truly here?" This intelligent lady was confused, and she knew it.

"Now I *know* it is in John," she said. "The Gospel of St. John is a spiritual book. I know it is there!" "Let us go to St. John then," I said, "and he will tell us the same thing about the resurrection." I turned to the nineteenth chapter of St. John, beginning to read at the fortieth verse, "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulcher was nigh at hand. The *first day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher." St. John 19:40-42; 20:1.

John wrote that about 100 A. D., about seventy years after Christ went to heaven. He surely should have known about any change in the Sabbath if there had been any. "Is that all John says? Doesn't he say more than that?" "Yes, I will read more; he says it again." "Let's read that," she said. "All right, we'll read on, in St. John 20:19, Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the disciples were holding a praise service in honor of the resurrection. . . ." [Voices in the audience: "Wrong! Wrong!"] Well—what's the matter? In some places a preacher can read right along and people do not know whether he is reading out of the Bible or out of the encyclopedia. *But here it is different.*

It is reported that in the Senate two members got into an argument about religion, and one said to the other, "You do not know anything about religion; I'll wager you ten dollars you can't repeat the Lord's prayer correctly." "I wager you ten dollars I can," and he started out: "Now I lay me down to sleep. . . ." "Well!" the other said, "here's your ten dollars!" So you see neither knew it.

So there are people all over the world today just as ignorant of the Bible as that, and I am glad some of you folk here know

how it goes and can stop me if I read it wrong. Well, let us read it right, just as it is here in St. John 20:19, "Then the same day at evening [that is, in the same period of time; some of them had seen Jesus in the morning], being the *first day* of the week [it doesn't say the "Lord's day," nor the "Christian Sabbath"]", "when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."

I heard of a preacher in Los Angeles—a doctor of divinity—who, before an intelligent audience of hundreds of people, in a church on Wilshire Boulevard on a Sunday night, told his audience that those disciples were holding an *Easter service* in honor of the resurrection of Christ!

This text says the disciples were assembled behind closed doors "*for fear of the Jews.*" They had the doors locked. They were in the living quarters of the disciples. "Oh, I know," you say, "but there must have been a meeting there because of His resurrection!" But, dear friends, they did not yet *believe* in the resurrection! When He appeared that night, they did not believe He was alive. They did not then believe in the resurrection, much less would they be holding an Easter service.

Now we will read from St. Mark 16:9-14. This is the sixth time the first day is mentioned. "Now when Jesus was risen early the *first day* of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene. . . . And she went and told them that had been with Him as they mourned and wept" there in that upper room. Weren't they happy when she told them Jesus was risen? Didn't they start an Easter service? No, because they *didn't believe it!* They would not believe He was risen. "And they, when they had heard that He was alive, and had been seen of her, *believed not.*" They believed she had hallucinations or a case of hysteria. "After that He appeared in another form unto two of them." (That is spoken of in St. Luke 24.) These two went to the upper room and declared that the Lord was risen, but the record says, "Neither believed they *them.*"

Now, it must have been in the afternoon when those men came to report. The fourteenth verse refers to that night when He came as they sat at meat, or were having their supper. And He "upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because *they believed not* them which had seen Him after He was risen."

That was Sunday night, and they were still hardhearted and unbelieving when Jesus came—a poor Easter celebration! However, that's about the way it is celebrated today, for the heathen belief that rabbits lay colored eggs has no connection whatever with the Passover season and the resurrection of Christ. Eggs to the heathen were a symbol of fecundity, and the very term "Easter" came from the name of a Norwegian (or Saxon) goddess, Eastre. Pope Victor had the celebration of the resurrection of Christ transferred from the Passover time to the present Easter time. There was a long controversy about the proper time for celebrating Easter; the Christians in the East celebrated it on the day of the Jewish Passover, though the majority of those in the church celebrated it on the Sunday following the Passover. The controversy was finally settled when the date for Easter was fixed as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

"So, my good lady, we have gone through St. John. Now what shall we do?" "Oh, there are scores more!" "There are just exactly two more, and if there is any holiness in Sunday it must be indicated in them." "Please do read them!" "All right, we will first read Acts the twentieth chapter."

With what a show of triumph do some people turn to this chapter! We will begin at the fifth verse. This is the record in which St. Luke tells about the boat trip of Luke and Paul and others of the disciples from Europe to Asia, down to Jerusalem. Remember that Paul, who had gone through the whole country founding churches, has started back to Jerusalem. Thinking it may be his last journey among them, he wishes to hold meetings with them as he goes. "These going before tarried for us at Troas." Troas was a Greek city on the coast. "And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days." It took them five days to get across that narrow sea from Philippi to Troas, where they abode seven days.

"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them." You say, "They held services on Sunday; that proves it was the new Sabbath." Paul preached to them, continuing his speech until midnight—more than a three-hour sermon! Yesterday I talked with two preachers who chided me about preaching three hours. They said, "That is too long; after the first hour, the people don't get anything out of the sermon." I said, "Well, the apostle Paul

preached until midnight. I have Bible authority for that fact!" "Yes," said one, "and a man went to sleep!" I replied, "Yes, but God helped Paul to wake him up!"

Starting early in the evening, Paul preached until midnight, "and there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together." At midnight "there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep, . . . he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead." (Now, if you are given to sleeping when the preaching is long, don't sit in a window, because you may fall out and be taken up dead, and Paul will not be there to bring you back to life!) All right, that was at midnight, "and Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him." God restored Eutychus to life. "When he [Paul] therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed." (Acts 20:5-11.)

They broke bread *after* Paul came up. From these words we cannot tell whether they were observing the Lord's Supper. It might have been simply a farewell meal. But suppose it was the communion—I am willing to grant it—they broke bread, ate, and then talked a long time after that. Paul preached *till break of day!* So Luke went before by ship to Assos, intending there to take in Paul, who had gone afoot across the peninsula. (Read verse 13.)

If that is the only text there is for Sunday sacredness, I do not want to go to the judgment with a Sunday-sacredness argument based on that—just the record of a special gathering, a farewell meeting. Moreover, the text says the meeting was held "the *first day* of the week." You say, "I thought it said *Sunday*." No, it says, "the *first day* of the week." The first day of the week, according to the Bible, begins at sunset on Saturday night. And, my Sunday-keeping friend, if you *believe* down in your heart that the first day of the week is holy and is God's day, then keep it from sundown Saturday night until sundown Sunday night. *That* is the day span God blessed, and *that only*. That is the way to keep a day that you think is holy, that is the way the Puritans kept it. Of course you cannot keep the first day holy, because it *is not* holy. But that is the only way to keep it if you have any convictions regarding it at all.

So Paul preached until midnight, after which time they broke bread and ate; and he preached again until morning. Then all day Sunday Paul walked across Mount Ida to the little village of Assos, where Luke and the other men met him and took him into the ship. You say, "I didn't think Paul would travel all day Sunday! Weren't the Jews restricted to less than two miles' travel on the Sabbath?"

Well, have it either way you desire. If it was the Lord's Supper they celebrated that night, remember, they did not celebrate it until *after* midnight; and if you insist it was a Sunday-night meeting rather than a Saturday-night meeting, the communion was celebrated on Monday. So our Sunday-sacredness advocate can take either horn of the dilemma he desires. This text contains simply a record of a farewell meeting.

"But," the lady said, "there must be one more text." "Yes, there is one more first-day text and only one more. We read the sixteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians and the first two verses, Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the *first* day of the week let every one of you, when you go to church, put something in the collection box for the preacher." ["No! No!" from many voices.] What do you stop me for? I have to prove Sunday sacredness some way, and this is the last text.

Let me put something in there, friend! Do you want me to put something in there, or to tell the truth? Well, we will read it just as it is in the Bible. It begins, "Now concerning the collection *for* the saints"—not *of* the saints, but the collection that Paul was going to take up from these richer churches *for* the saints of the poorer churches. He gives instructions as to how they were to take the collection. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

My dear friends, that is the last *Sunday* text. The church at Corinth and the churches of Galatia were *the only churches concerned*, and Paul instructed them to go over their accounts and see how God had prospered them on the first day of the week, and then lay it by so that when he should pass again there would be no gatherings.

When we take up the collection in a church service, who is laying by in store? Is it the church or you? Mark Twain said

he went to a meeting once where the man talked about the missions in Africa so eloquently that he decided to give twenty-five dollars to missions. The man went on talking, and he decided to give only fifteen dollars. As the preacher continued to talk he decided to give five dollars; and, at last, when they passed the collection plate, he said, he *stole* ten cents! So when a church takes the collection, *it* is laying by in store, not you.

When Paul's church members put by in store, they stored *at home, a custom the Jews have to this day*. I heard F. C. Gilbert, who was reared in a Jewish home, say they had a little box into which, before they went about their duties on the first day of the week, the children were taught to put a few pennies for the poor. That is a beautiful custom. Paul was recommending that custom to the church at Corinth.

The first sermon I preached in a tent was in a little town in Colorado, where my father held a series of meetings with me as assistant. One day when a Methodist preacher came to the tent Father said to him, "Brother, I would like to have you preach for us," which the preacher did. He gave a fine sermon, preaching like Bishop Simpson. The Word of God rang forth in fiery summons, as he preached a strong sermon on the ten commandments, a strange subject for him to choose. About a week later Father spoke on the Sabbath. Then the preacher stopped coming, and put a sign on his church, "Why I Keep Sunday," as an announcement.

Since we thought if he had any Bible reasons we ought to know them, Father said, "Let us all go next Sunday morning and give him the biggest crowd he has had in a long time." We went, and he had a large crowd to listen to his message, with my father sitting in front. This preacher went over these texts, and when he came down to the last text—I will never forget it—he knew and we knew that he had made no case for Sunday sacredness. He had not a single text to stand on! When he got to 1 Corinthians he couldn't remember where the chapter was. "There is another text—another text—another text [three times he said those words], another text over here—over here—" And when everybody was noticing his confusion, Father spoke up and said, "I think you want 1 Corinthians 16:2."

"Yes, that is the one," he said. "Thank you very much!" And when he did get it, he said, "I will tell you how it is. After all, it is '*think against think*,' and that is all there is to it. This brother

thinks the Sabbath is Saturday and I think it is Sunday." Seventeen people marched out of that church service and said, "That settles it for us;" and a few days later they followed the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Sabbathkeeping Saviour. We built a nice church and a large church school in that town and they are still in use.

Well, friends, I have read all the texts that mention Sunday, but none of them says it is a holy day or ought to be kept by God's people. *Not one!* "Well," you say, "does the New Testament mention the Sabbath?" It certainly does!

I have read about Jesus keeping the Sabbath and the apostles keeping the Sabbath. Turn with me now to the thirteenth chapter of Acts. We note here that after reading the law and the prophets on the Sabbath day, Paul had a chance to preach. Read the forty-second verse, "When the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them"—the next Sunday morning? No, "the next Sabbath." Now, if there had been any change or thought of any change, why didn't Paul say, "No, come tomorrow, on the new *Christian* Sabbath, the first day"? Did he say that? No, indeed. There is no record of it. But what happened? "The next *Sabbath* day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." Verse 44.

I tell you, Sunday hasn't a text to stand on in the Bible. Yet I have heard preacher after preacher try to defend it, who would turn to the church "Fathers" every time to get their support. But if we accept the views of these so-called early Fathers on first-day keeping, why not follow them also in their other teachings and customs? Why not take it all?

The writings of Polycarp, Ignatius, Barnabas, and the rest of them contain many strange things. Some of these Fathers had been pagan philosophers, and they brought over into the church many ideas contrary to the Scriptures. It was during the centuries after Christ when some of these men wrote that Sunday gradually came into the church from the heathen world. Evidence of this is found in the writings of some of the Fathers. Among these writings of the Fathers, the so-called epistle of Barnabas is often quoted in favor of Sunday, although it doesn't mention Sunday. One must be hard pressed indeed to use this epistle, which some authorities say is an out-and-out forgery of the second century. Although some of our friends do quote a few lines of it which speak

of "the eighth day" as being kept by Barnabas and others, there are other things in it which they are careful not to quote. And for good reason, for some of them cannot be read in a mixed audience and others are an insult to common intelligence. As a sample of the latter, consider this, "Thou shalt not eat of the hyena. . . . Wherefore? Because that animal annually changes its sex, and is at one time male and at another female." Chapter 10. The less we depend upon such writers the better!

Do you want another text from the apostles about the Sabbath? ["Yes." From the audience.] In Acts 14:15 the apostle Paul quotes the very words of the *fourth* commandment. Now in the sixteenth chapter of Acts we will see that the first church in Europe was founded by the apostle Paul on the Sabbath day. "On the Sabbath we went out of the city by a riverside, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither." Verse 13. Why, my dear friends, there was no church in that town and no synagogue, and when the Sabbath came the disciples were holding services out by the river and talking about Christ, the Messiah. Lydia, one of the women at that meeting, was converted, and she became a great Christian worker. (Read verse 14.) The first church of Jesus Christ in Europe was founded that Sabbath day in Philippi, the first church founded among Europeans—a Sabbathkeeping church.

In the seventeenth chapter of Acts, Paul and his workers are in Thessalonica. When speaking of Jesus' relation to the Sabbath, Luke writes, "As His *custom* was" (St. Luke 4:16); but in speaking of Paul, this verse says, "As his *manner* was." As Paul preached for three Sabbath days in Thessalonica, many listened to his words, and he founded the church of Thessalonica—another Sabbathkeeping church. (Read Acts 17:1, 2.) In the eighteenth chapter, verse 4, we read, "He [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue *every Sabbath*, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." This is in Corinth, and he reasoned and preached in the synagogue every Sabbath. How often? *Every Sabbath*. "And persuaded the Jews and the Greeks [Gentiles]."

How long did he stay in Corinth? A year and six months. (Read verse 11.) There is a record of seventy-eight times that the apostle Paul preached the gospel of Jesus Christ, definitely, on the Sabbath day; but only one first-day meeting is recorded, and that was on a *Saturday night*.

My dear friends, do you know that no one who reads the Bible can have faith in *Sunday* as a "holy" day? "Do you mean to tell me my father and mother had no real faith in Sunday?" One can't have *Bible faith* in anything that is not in the Bible. Turn to the book of Romans, the tenth chapter and the seventeenth verse. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." My friends, if your doctrine doesn't come from God's Word you can't have real faith in it. You may believe it, but you can't have real *Bible faith* in anything that isn't in the Bible. That is what the Bible says; that is not merely my word. The *Bible* says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Hearing what? *Hearing the Word of God*. If I believe something and I put it up against what God says, I want to tell you I am making a great mistake.

In Romans 14:23 is written, "He that doubteth is damned . . . for *whatever is not of faith is sin*." Does this verse say that? Yes; it says, "Whatever is not of faith is sin." "But do you think that because I break just *one* of God's commandments He will hold me responsible?" James 2:8-11 says, "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well. . . . For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in *one point*, he is guilty of all." What law is James talking about? "He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill." What law says that? *The ten commandments*. Then, if you break one of the ten commandments you break all in His sight—you break the whole law.

My watch chain has ten links. How many links would I have to break before the watch would fall and be broken? "*Only one*," says a voice, "just have to break *one* link!" Oh, my dear friends, God's commandments stand sure. "Well," you say, "what did Jesus say about it?" You remember that we read in the twenty-fourth chapter of St. Matthew, verse 20, that Jesus, looking down into the future and seeing that people would neglect the Sabbath, said, "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." *Forty years* after Jesus went back to heaven that word was fulfilled—*forty long years*—and Jesus had said, "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." Our blessed Saviour had to pray that His followers would keep the Sabbath. We can show definitely from history that their prayers were answered.

A man once said to me, "Preacher, there is a verse in the Bible which says, 'Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day.' My father prayed that he wouldn't die in the wintertime nor on the Sabbath day!" That man thought that at death some part of him had to flee to some place, and he didn't want to flee in the winter! But Jesus was talking about the flight from Jerusalem when the city was to be besieged by the Romans. The story of how the prayers of God's people were answered is a most thrilling one.

"What about the great professors and learned men? Do *they* know about the Sabbath? What do *they* say about it?" What do *we* care what they say about it, so long as *God* speaks clearly in His Word? In the time of Christ, some people who wanted to obey Him didn't want to do it before they heard what the great (?) in Israel had said. They asked, "Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed on Him?" St. John 7:48. "Why," they say, "if the great scholars with long lists of degrees after their names believe it, then I will believe it." Thank God, some of the men with the greatest educational attainments do believe it; yet there are some who do not believe it. But the wisdom of God is hidden "from the wise and prudent" and "*revealed*" "unto babes." (Read St. Matthew 11:25.)

Divine truth comes through the revelation of God by the Holy Spirit's presenting the Scriptures to your heart and mind. Education sometimes keeps us from receiving this truth because we trust in our education. Education is a wonderful thing if it is consecrated to God, but it is a curse if it blinds our eyes to the heavenly vision. There are many people today who believe what the Bible says, but who hold back because of human tradition. In St. Matthew 15:6 Jesus said, "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." In the ninth verse He said, "But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Turn to the third chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes, the fourteenth verse, "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before Him." My dear friends, whatsoever God does is done forever. God doesn't change. He doesn't change as men do. Who changed the Sabbath? The Bible teaches that the seventh day is the Sabbath, but the general practice of

so-called Christian people is not in accord with the Word. Who made the change? The Sabbath really has never been changed except in practice. Who, then, is responsible for the attempt? We find no Bible teaching supporting Sunday as the Sabbath—none at all—but the customs and practices of the world have brought about the tradition of Sunday keeping.

I believe in American freedom, and if people want to keep Sunday, let them keep it—or Friday or Wednesday, let them keep that—or let them keep no day, as seems to be the general practice. But we are talking about this subject from a Biblical standpoint.

Let us consider what *Bible authority* there is for changing it and who made the change. No reference to individuals will be made, but we will bring forward a number of historical and church references on this subject. Who made this change? Let us see if we can find out who is interested in the change. There are always at least two sides to a discussion. The Sabbath *has* been changed or it has *not* been changed. If it has not been changed, I want to know it. Jesus said, "He that is not with Me is against Me." St. Matthew 12:30. In a court trial three questions are always asked: (1) Had the accused any motive for doing this thing? (2) Was he present when the crime was committed or does he have an alibi? (3) Is there any evidence that he did commit the crime?

There are only two persons who we might think would change the Sabbath. Either Christ changed it or the devil changed it. It was done either in the interest of Christ, or it was done in the interest of the great adversary. In the last analysis there are only two great personalities in the universe; and they are in a mighty conflict. Did Christ have any motive for changing the Sabbath? We read in St. John 1 that Jesus Christ was the Creator of the heavens and the earth. The verse says, "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." Verse 3. In Colossians 1:15-17 we read that "by Him were all things created." He not only created worlds, but He holds them together. "He is before all things, and by Him all things consist [hang together]." Let us read further 1 Corinthians 8:6, "To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by *whom are all things*, and we by Him." And

Hebrews 1:1-3, "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."

Now, my dear friends, since Christ created the world and made man, you can see He created the Sabbath, for, according to Genesis 2:1-3, He who made the world also made the Sabbath. And inasmuch as Christ made all things, therefore the Sabbath is the holy, blessed, sanctified rest day of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, a memorial of His creative power. In Psalms 135:13 we read, "Thy memorial, O Lord, [endureth] throughout all generations." The Sabbath, then, is a memorial, a pillar of witness, a testimony of the great creative power of Christ. Would Christ have a motive for destroying His own memorial? Did He have an interest in blotting out the memory of what He did for humanity? No, *of course not!* We can all see that.

Turn to Ezekiel the twentieth chapter and read the twentieth verse. Here we find that the Sabbath is a sign of that great creative power, "Hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a *sign* between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." My friends, do you know that if the true Sabbath were being kept there would not be an infidel in the world today, because the Sabbath points out the true God as the maker of heaven and earth? There would not be an evolutionist on earth, because all would believe that God rested on the seventh day after creating the world in six days. There would not be one heathen idolater, because the Sabbath points out this great Christ of ours who made the heavens and the earth and all things therein.

Christ did not have a *motive* for abolishing the Sabbath, but He *did* have a motive for establishing it as a memorial. First, He created it in the beginning; and second, man fell into sin—there was no hope for him—and Jesus came down from the glory world. He said, "I will go down, Father, I will offer My life and give Myself as a sacrifice for man." And He did come down and give His life. We read in St. Luke 19:10 that He came "to seek and to save *that* which was lost." Although this world was sold out cheap to the devil by Adam and Eve, it was bought back at a great cost.

Do you know that redemption is just the same as re-creation? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new

creature [R. V., "creation"]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." It took the same power, exercised by God, to create man as it did to redeem the world. Ephesians 4:24 says, "Put on the new man, which after God is *created* in righteousness and true holiness."

David, the psalmist, says in the tenth verse of the fifty-first psalm, "*Create* in me a clean heart, O God." By this we see that the *creative* and the *redemptive* power of God are represented as dual manifestations of the same power. In Isaiah 44:22-24 we find the same, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee. Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth. . . . Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, . . . I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by Myself."

Creation and redemption are accomplished by the same power, by the same great God. Christ existed before the creation of this world. He was the One who made the world. God the Son, Jesus Christ, was the active agent in creation. Some people think He did not exist before He came to earth as a babe in Bethlehem. But when we read Micah 5:2, it is all clear, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah. . . . out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting [margin, "the days of eternity"]." Christ went forth and created this world, and He went forth again and re-created man and redeemed him on the cross. Do you know the *sign* of that *redemptive* power? Do you know the sign of that *creative* power? It is the Sabbath! It takes the same power to sanctify and redeem a sinner that it did to sanctify and set apart the Sabbath. This is *creative* power, the sign of Christ's divinity. By this power He can swing a planet into space and send it spinning in its orbit. "Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that *sanctify* them." Ezekiel 20:12. It is a sign of redemption and sanctification.

The Lord Jesus Christ labored six days at creation, and rested the seventh day as a "sign." That last week He was here on earth He worked in Jerusalem for our redemption, until on bloody Golgotha's height He cried, "It is finished!" St. John

19:30. Then He rested from the work of *re-creation* on the Sabbath! You see, our Lord has a double reason to desire the survival of the Sabbath. "Wherefore Jesus also, that He might *sanctify* the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate." We read, "Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach." Hebrews 13:12, 13. He died to *sanctify* His people. He professed that the Sabbath was made for man. He made it for man. He declared, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." St. Mark 2:27, 28. He *made* the Sabbath and He kept the Sabbath. And in Revelation 3:14 it is written that He is a "faithful and true witness;" His testimony is true. He said, in St. Matthew 5:17, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."

"Oh, minister," someone says, "*to fulfill* means to do away with, doesn't it?" Is that true? Turn to the same book, St. Matthew, the third chapter and the fifteenth verse. Jesus had come to the Jordan to be baptized of John. John didn't want to baptize Him, because he felt too unworthy to do it. But Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to *fulfill* all righteousness." When Christ was baptized, did He put an *end* to righteousness? No, of course not. He was baptized to fulfill righteousness. He set an example for us to follow. No more did He put an end to the Sabbath, but His example is there forever for God's children to follow.

Shall we call a witness? In Hebrews 13:8 we read, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Do you believe that? That includes all time. If He were here right now, would He be a Sabbathkeeper? Certainly He would. Well, let's call some more witnesses. We have some Protestants here tonight; let us ask them some questions. Here is Alexander Campbell, founder and creator of the Christian Church, sometimes called the Campbellite Church. From his "Popular Lectures," page 283, we learn that, "heaven left not this part, the creation, the basis of a thousand volumes, to be gathered from plausible conjectures, but from a monumental institution which was as universal as the annals of time, as the birth of nations; an institution, too, which notwithstanding its demand, not only on the seventh part of time but of the seventh day in uninterrupted

succession." That is Alexander Campbell's doctrine, and I believe it.

Now we will call Doctor Binney, who wrote that theological compendium, "A Methodist Book of Doctrine." We read on page 169, "The day appointed of God, at the close of creation, to be observed by man as a day of rest from all secular employment, because that in it God Himself had rested from His work: Genesis 2:1-3. Not that God's rest was necessitated by fatigue: Isaiah 40:28, but He rested, that is, ceased to work on the seventh day, as an example to man; hence assigned it as a reason why men should rest on that day. Exodus 20:8-11." That is good Methodist doctrine, and I believe it! I read on, "To be a *perpetual memorial* or *sign* that all who thus observe it would show themselves to be worshipers of that God who made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day." Isn't that fine! Doctor Binney sounds like a Sabbathkeeper on this subject.

Well, there is only one person who has any interest in changing the Sabbath. That is Lucifer. Lucifer is under suspicion. In Isaiah 14:12 we see the finger of God pointed at him, and we see that suspicion rested upon him. Lucifer said, "I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:14. Now *God* has a *Sabbath*. Lucifer was cast out of heaven, and his ambition is to be like God. And since God has a Sabbath, he, too, would have a sabbath, a counterfeit sabbath. Suspicion points to him! *Christ did not change the Sabbath*. He would have had no motive for doing so, and the Bible says He is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." What kind of police record has Lucifer? Let us look at it. When he was cast down to this earth he had a wonderful name. That name, *Lucifer*, means "day star; bright, shining one." The "day star" among the ancients was the sun, or "star of day." We find that the old heathen people worshiped the sun, as did some people who turned from God, and Sunday worship was really devil worship. Read 2 Kings 23:5. Compare Psalms 106:28-37.

Turn to Job 31:26, 27. Here Job spoke of throwing kisses at the moon or worshipping the sun. He said it would be a sin if the people would do that, because it would be denying the Creator of the universe. In 2 Kings 23:11-15 you will find that apostate kings erected images to the sun and put a huge idol in the temple of Jerusalem.

Doctor Hiscox of the Church of England is here and wishes

to testify. All right, Doctor, go ahead. "The Greek Belus, as representing the highest title of the Babylonian god was undoubtedly Baal, 'The Lord.' Where the sun was a favorite object of worship as in Babylon he was worshiped at this festival not merely as the orb of day, but as god incarnate. It was an essential principle of the Babylonian system, that the *sun or god, Baal, was the one and only god.*"—"The Two Babylons," p. 20. Behind that idol Baal was the devil, you see.

Now the *Sunday School Advocate* of December 31, 1921, will speak, "In the days of very long ago the people of the world began to give names to everything, and they turned the sounds of the lips into words, so that the lips could speak a thought. In those days the people worshiped the sun, because many words were made to tell of many thoughts about many things. The people became Christians and were ruled by an emperor whose name was Constantine. This emperor made Sun-day the Christian sabbath because of the blessing of light and heat which came from the sun. So our Sunday is a sun-day, isn't it?"

Mr. Jennings, "Jewish Antiquities," Greek, chapter 3, you are next. "Sunday, the day which the heathen in general devote to the worship and honor of their chief god, the sun, which, according to our computation, was the first day of the week."

Webster's Dictionary is next. "Sunday—So named because anciently dedicated to the sun, or to its worship."

Worcester's Dictionary, the great British dictionary, declares, "Sunday—The pagans appropriated their first day of the week to the peculiar adoration of the sun, when of that day dost yet retain in our English tongue the name of Sunday."

Vesstegan's "Antiquities," page 10, London, 1628, will be our next historical witness. He states, "Sunday—The pagans appropriated their first day of the week to the peculiar adoration of the sun, when that day dost yet retain in our English tongue the name of Sunday."

Now a good German witness is called. From the "Zun Religionsgsh," by H. Gunkle, we read, "If, in another oriental religion we should hear about the celebration of Sunday and should ask, Who is the Lord after whom Sunday is called the Lord's day? we would at once get the answer, The Lord is a god, the sun-god. According to the Babylonian calendar, Sunday, as its name implies, was regarded as essentially to belong to the

sun-god. The taking over of Sunday by the early Christians does not originate in the gospel, but in a system of religion foreign to it."

Down in South America, the old Incas of Peru had a golden disk with beams raying out from it. When the morning sun struck the disk, the worshipers would bow down and worship the sun. Many of the Christian churches still contain suggestions of such idolatrous things.

After the apostles died there was a great falling away from the Bible teachings and customs, and many ordinances and teachings of human origin were introduced in their place.

Those who have studied the early centuries of church history tell us that "the rulers of the church from early times were prepared, should the occasion arise, to adopt, or imitate, or sanction the existing rites and customs of the populace, as well as the philosophy of the educated class." ("Development of Christian Doctrine," Newman, p. 372.) We are told in various ways by Eusebius that Constantine, "in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own." (Page 373.)

In Psalms 106 we read that the heathen really worshiped devils when they worshiped the false pagan gods. Their gods were deified men, great heroes of the past. Since these men were dead and they professed to worship the spirits of the dead, they really worshiped devils. It was a form of Spiritualism that pervaded the heathen world in various forms.

Lucifer had a strong motive in changing the Sabbath. He thought he would thus take the glory away from Christ. Always working through people, he didn't come around and say, "I am the devil; I want you to change the Sabbath." No, he always works through people. Turn to the twenty-fourth chapter of Isaiah where God's great finger of prophecy points to the people as the instruments of Lucifer in this change. Their master is the devil. "Because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:5.

Now what part of the people made the change? Turn with me to the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah—we are coming closer now. What particular part of the people? "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Verse 1.

What people? *My people*. "Show My people their transgression." What is their transgression? "Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and *forsook not the ordinance of their God.*" Verse 2.

By this we see that some of the people whom He calls "My people" have forsaken His ordinance. What is the ordinance? Read the twelfth and thirteenth verses, "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, 'The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words. . . .'"

What had they been doing? They had neglected the Sabbath, and through them there was a breach in God's law. They had to keep the Sabbath to mend the breach. What *breach*? If they had to keep *Sabbath* to mend the breach, what was the breach? What caused the breach? If the receiving of the Sabbath repairs the breach, then the forsaking of the Sabbath must have made the breach. What kind of people broke the ordinance and changed it? Some of "My people," says the Lord. So you see when the Sabbath was changed it was changed by some of the *professed people* of God. Now, turn to the great prophecy of the book of Daniel: "And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws." Daniel 7:25.

Many great Protestant theologians will tell you that one spoken of as "he" is the Papacy, the Roman Catholic Church. I mean nothing hard against the Catholics by saying that, and the Roman Catholics will back me up in most of the things I say.

Many authorities admit that the Scriptures do not proclaim Sunday a holy day but that its present position in the Catholic and Protestant world was brought about through church influence. For example, I have here in my hands a book by Cardinal Gibbons entitled "Faith of Our Fathers." On page 86 Cardinal Gibbons says, "Now the Scriptures alone do not contain all the truth which a Christian is bound to believe. . . . Is not every Christian obliged to sanctify Sunday, and to abstain on that day from unnecessary

servile work? But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." Here in my old scrapbook I have a photostat of a letter from Cardinal Gibbons in his own handwriting. This letter was written on September 27, 1914, to Mr. James Smith of Terre Haute, Indiana. "In answer to your letter of inquiry wherein you ask (1) Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the ten commandments? I answer 'Yes.' (2) Is Sunday the first day of the week, and did the church change the seventh day, Saturday, for Sunday, the first day? I answer 'Yes.' (3) Did Christ change the day? I answer 'No!' Faithfully yours, [signed] Cardinal Gibbons."

Here is another plain statement by church authority. I hold in my hand "A Doctrinal Catechism," by Reverend Stephen Keenan, and read from page 174 as follows:

"Question—Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

"Answer—Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her:—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority."

We have another book here entitled "Question Box Answers," by Reverend Bertrand L. Conway, published in 1916 by the Paulist Press of New York City. We read from page 179: "What Bible authority is there for changing the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week? Who gave the pope the authority to change a command of God? If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian, then the Seventh-day Adventist is right in observing the Saturday with the Jew. But Catholics learn what to believe and do from the divine, infallible authority established by Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church, which in apostolic times made Sunday the day of rest to honor our Lord's resurrection on that day, and to mark off clearly the Jew from the Christian. St. Justin Martyr (Apol. c. 67) speaks of the early Christians meeting for the holy sacrifice of the mass on Sunday. Is it not strange that those who make the Bible their only teacher should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the Church?"

A leading Baptist minister, Doctor Edward T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manual, read a paper before a New York Ministers' Conference, in which he said:

"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges, and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament, absolutely not. There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.

"I wish to say that this Sabbath question, in this aspect of it, is the gravest and most perplexing question connected with Christian institutions which at present claims attention from Christian people; and the only reason that it is not a more disturbing element in Christian thought and in religious discussions, is that the Christian world has settled down content on the conviction that somehow a transference took place at the beginning of Christian history. . . .

"To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question, discussing it in some of its various aspects, freeing it from its false glosses, never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated. Nor, so far as we know, did the Spirit, which was given to bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever that He had said unto them, deal with this question. Nor yet did the inspired apostles, in preaching the gospel, founding churches, counselling and instructing those founded, discuss or approach this subject.

"Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun-god, when adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!"

The mark of *what?* *The mark of paganism!* I think the great Baptist preacher is right. "Adopted from paganism." Sun-

day has been called "the wild solar holiday of all pagan times," and Sunday worship came into the Christian church from the Mithra cave worshippers. See Wells, "Outline of History," page 512. It was authorized by Constantine who was at the head of the army, Mithraism having been always popular in military circles. (See "Mithra," by Cumont.) Like a forsaken baby left on the doorstep of the religious world, Sunday was adopted by the church from the pagan world. Taking the pagan baby to her breast, she nourished it by the milk of her doctrine of authority and bequeathed it as a sacred legacy to the world today. That is what the great Baptist preacher tells us. He says there is no Bible authority for the change, and that it comes from pagan Rome.

Well, I like to hear Methodists talk, because I came from a Methodist line myself. Let us hear Doctor Binney, the great Methodist writer, on page 180 of his "Theological Compend." "It is true there is no positive command for infant baptism, nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week!" Now that is good Methodist doctrine. Reading from the Methodist "Articles of Faith," Article V, we find this, "The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation." Since there is no commandment to keep Sunday and Sunday sacredness is not found in the Scriptures, you don't have to keep Sunday any more, according to the "Discipline"!

We will read on. Doctor Binney gives texts for his statements of this fine book. Notice on page 170, "The seventh-day Sabbath was strictly observed by Christ and His apostles previous to His crucifixion. [Doctor Binney gives texts for that.] Jesus, after His resurrection, changed the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week! [Well, Doctor Binney would never say that without much Scripture proof, surely!] *When* He gave instructions for this change *we are not told!*" If it is not in the Scriptures and if "we are not told," how does Doctor Binney conclude the Sabbath was changed by Christ? Doctor Binney says Christ did it, but he adds that the Bible does not say that He did it! And the "Methodist Episcopal Discipline" declares that when the Bible does not enjoin an act, we are not

bound to do it! I read on, "This is *probably* one of the many *unrecorded* things Jesus did!"

After all, it is *unrecorded*, isn't it? Doctor Binney is right about that! If it is *unrecorded*, it is not in the record; and we agreed to follow the example of Jesus as *recorded* in the New Testament. You said that Jesus' example, as recorded in the New Testament, was to be your guide and example in religious things. How many are willing to follow that example? Jesus was a Sabbathkeeper. You good Methodists and others, Sunday holiness is *not* in the Bible. I am glad you know that your leading theological writers are ready to admit it.

There is the "Shorter Catechism" and the "Confession of Faith" of the Presbyterian Church. I will not take time to read them, but here we are told that the moral law of ten commandments is eternal. That being true—and these are the words of God—all Presbyterians should keep the Sabbath. And Lutherans should keep the Sabbath. Here in Luther's "Catechism" in German and English, we read on page 26, "The commandments which are binding on all men are called the moral law." Then Luther goes on and mentions the Sabbath.

From the Nazarene Manual, we read on page 22, "By the Holy Scriptures we understand the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, revealing the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation; so that whatever is not contained therein is not to be enjoined as an article of faith." From this you see that if Sunday sacredness is not from the Bible, you do not have to keep it. And I do assure you that it is not in the Bible.

Now in the Baptist Manual, page 54, we read, "We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church." Inasmuch as that is true, every one of you Baptists should keep God's holy Sabbath. Do you know, the only place in the world where there is any claim for divine authority for Sunday observance is in a peculiar epistle which a man in the

thirteenth century claimed fell down from heaven. I have a copy of this epistle.

It is said that in 1200 A. D. Eustace went over to England from the Continent and labored ardently in behalf of the Sunday-keeping church. It seems that many in Ireland and England were still keeping the true Sabbath of the Lord in those days. Because that early church was a Sabbathkeeping church, when this man got there he had to fight against the Sabbath to get the Sunday church started in England. This emissary went over there and tried to get it started, but he had a hard time, and when the people wouldn't change, he went home. When he went back to England again some time later, he had with him "The Holy Commandment as to the Lord's Day." This is the only so-called divine (?) authority for a Sunday sabbath in the world. I will read it:

"The holy commandment as to the Lord's day, which came down from heaven to Jerusalem, and was found upon the altar of Saint Simeon, in Golgotha, where Christ was crucified for the sins of the world. The Lord sent down this epistle, which was found upon the altar of Saint Simeon, and after looking upon which three days and three nights, some men fell upon the earth imploring the mercy of God. And after the third hour, the patriarch arose, and Acharias, the archbishop, and they opened the scroll, and received the holy epistle from God. And when they had taken the same, they found this writing therein:

" 'I am the Lord who commanded you to observe the holy day of the Lord, and ye have not kept it, and have not repented of your sins, as I have said in My gospel, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Whereas I cause to be preached unto you repentance and amendment of life, you did not believe Me, I have sent against you the pagans, who have shed your blood on the earth; and yet you have not believed; and because you did not keep the Lord's day holy, for a few days you suffered hunger, but soon I gave you fullness, and after that you did still worse again. Once more it is My will that no one from the ninth hour on Saturday until sunrise on Monday, shall *do any work except that which is good*. [According to that, on all other days of the week bad things would be allowed.]

" 'And if any person shall do so, *he shall with penance make amends for the same*. And if you do not pay obedience to this command, verily I say unto you, and I swear unto you, by My

seat, and by My throne, and by the cherubim who watch My holy seat, that I will give you My commands by no other epistle, but I will open the heavens, and *for rain I will drop upon you stones, and wood, and hot water in the night, that no one may take precautions against the same, and so that I may destroy all wicked men.*

“‘This do I say unto you; for the Lord’s holy day, you shall die the death; and for the other festivals of My saints which you have not kept, I will send unto you beasts which have the heads of lions, the hair of women, the tails of camels, and they shall be so ravenous that they shall devour your flesh, and you shall long to flee away to the tombs of the dead, and to hide yourselves for fear of the beasts; and I will take away the light of the sun from before your eyes, and will send darkness upon you, that not seeing, you may slay one another, and that I may remove from you My face, and may not show mercy upon you. For I will burn the bodies and the hearts of you, and of all those who do not keep as holy the day of the Lord.’” (See Andrew’s “History of the Sabbath,” second edition, pages 386-389.)

Now, my dear friends, if that doesn’t make you keep Sunday, I don’t know what will! I can only say with the great Baptist preacher, “What a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism!”

Oh, my dear friends, “come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean thing,” and God will be a Father unto you and you “shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18. Keep God’s holy Sabbath. Get over on God’s side on the Sabbath question!

Our time is gone! Only three minutes more and we have hardly touched the origin of Sunday. We haven’t had time to go down into the dark Mithra cave where men were drenched by the blood of bulls slain on iron gratings, where men counterfeited and caricatured the cross of Jesus Christ and worshiped the seven planets. The sun was considered to be the greatest of the seven planets, and so the day whose first hour was dedicated to the sun became the great day of their worship and caused the first day to be called “Sunday.” Constantine, a Mithra worshiper, published the first Sunday law in 321 A. D., and the leading bishops of the church concurred and united the pagan day to the church, whence it has been handed down to us. It is the *mark* of church power

rather than of Bible teaching. When the church went its own way and did these things, it experienced a "falling away" from original Bible truth.

Friends, it is time for us to come over to God's side and go to the kingdom! "Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." St. Matthew 15:13. Sunday is a holiday, not a *holy* day; and educated people today know there is no Bible authority for it! If your children come and ask you, "Why don't we keep the seventh day?" do you say, "Oh, it must have been changed; go and ask the preacher"? If the church has no Bible in these shaking days, it will go down, and if the church doesn't give up this attitude and come over to God's way, God's Book and God's day, it will lose, and civilization will lose!

"Oh," you say, "the automobile is breaking up the church." Yet most of our churches are full every Saturday. Keeping the Sabbath often means a great financial sacrifice, but when you do you get the blessing of God. If there was ever a time when we need to get near to God it is in these trying times. God took care of the children of Israel and sent them manna in the wilderness, and He will take care of you if you are doing His will. Will you make a covenant with Him by sacrifice? (See Psalms 50:5.)

Friends, it is wonderful for this audience to have stayed here all through this service, over three full hours, hungry for the truth.

I wonder if those who have heard this message will pray about this, decide to keep God's holy day, and take your stand for God. May God bless you! (Hands raised.)

Signs of Our Lord's Return

Jesus reproached the religious leaders of His day, saying, "Ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" St. Matthew 16:3.

Christ is coming *sometime*; that is true, but that is not all the truth. These signs of the times show plainly that He is coming soon. He is at the door; His foot is on the threshold; His hand is on the latch. Soon and suddenly He will come. Decades will not become centuries and centuries run into millenniums, but before we realize it He will be here.

Quickly, quickly, Jesus will come; speedily, speedily He will return; soon, soon He will be here—while men and women are trying to put off the day, and thinking it won't come during their lifetime. Oh, how suddenly it will come, with the very voice of the Son of God sounding through the earth, speaking death and terror to those who are in their sins, but joy and immortality to those who look for Him!

Jesus said He would return, and He explained how His followers might know the approximate time of His return. I am reading St. Matthew 24:32, 33, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

What are "these things"—these signs of the day of His return? All through the Word of God are set forth predictions of both prophets and apostles which give us certain signs by which we can know that the coming of Jesus is near. I call your attention to twelve great signs of Christ's return.

1. The first great sign is "Increase of knowledge."

"Thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4.

One hundred fifty years ago the world was much the same as it was in the days of Abraham. Let us go back a hundred fifty years. Comforts and conveniences disappear. There is no telephone or telegraph, no electric car, no elevated railroad, no steam-

boat, no cable car, not even a horse car. The buggy is the most rapid means of transportation. There are no airplanes; mail delivery is slow and uncertain. There are no electric lights or kerosene lamps—just tallow candles—no radio broadcasts, no phonographs, no sewing machines, no reapers, no electric irons, no electric sweepers, no modern farm machinery. There are no India-rubber goods, no photographs, no photoengravings. Far in the future are those things. There are no daily newspapers, no power printing presses to print, cut, fold, and count newspapers at the rate of 96,000 an hour. In Austria a newspaper was made from a tree in two hours and fifteen minutes. At 7:45 A. M. the tree was cut down, and at 10 A. M. the papers were being sold on the street. There are no celluloid articles, no gas engines or cold-storage machines, no Linotype or Monotype, no typewriters, no air brakes, no ocean cables.

Of all the great inventions of the present day—the things of necessity which we enjoy—few were dreamed of one hundred fifty years ago. Even in 1833 an old, honored clerk in the United States Patent Office said that all the great inventions had been made and he was going to resign before the blow fell. In 1833 he had never heard of the great inventions of the nineteenth century. In 1844 Samuel F. B. Morse invented the telegraph. Congress, by a vote of 89 to 83, decided to give Mr. Morse \$25,000 to test his new invention by an experimental line from Baltimore to Washington. The first message ever sent over the wire was, "What hath God wrought!" Numbers 23:23.

When I was lecturing on this point in Little Rock, Arkansas, an old gentleman in the audience stood and told us he had helped Morse make and set up the equipment, and was present when that message was sent.

2. The second sign is "Running to and fro." "Many shall run to and fro." Daniel 12:4.

When will this traveling be seen? In the time of the end. This world is on wheels; there are more than thirty million automobiles. Every man, woman, child, and household pet can ride at once. Think of the great inventions of transportation. Think of the great prophecy in Nahum 2:3, 4. "The chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of His preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings."

"They shall run like the lightnings." Does this have fulfillment in the great automobile traffic of today? One translation says, "They shall be with *fire in steel in the day of His preparation.*"

In the eighteenth century the great infidel Voltaire ridiculed Sir Isaac Newton because he had said men would yet travel at the rate of fifty miles an hour, basing his declaration on the prophecies of the Bible. He said that even Newton, the prince of philosophers, was led astray by his foolish faith in the Bible. After all, who was wrong, Voltaire or Newton? Our regular railway trains average more than fifty miles an hour on main lines, and streamliners travel more than one hundred miles an hour. An American airman, in official tests, flew faster than bullets had traveled in the Civil War. Think of it! Faster than bullets! Surely the prophecy is fulfilled in our day! Uncle Joe Cannon, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, said shortly before his death that he could remember, when his mother and father had left North Carolina, bringing him along, that his mother had said, "Good-by civilization; we are going into the wild West." They were moving to Ohio.

In 1864 the *Scientific American* published an article which proved beyond question that man could never build a machine that would fly, that the dream of being able to fly was fantastic and unscientific. In spite of this learned dissertation, on December 17, 1903, the first flying machine left the ground—with Orville Wright at the controls.

A short sixty-one years ago a Boston newspaper printed the following item of news.

"A man about forty-six years of age, giving the name of Joshua Coppersmith, has been arrested in New York for attempting to extort funds from ignorant and superstitious people by exhibiting a device which he says will convey the human voice any distance over metallic wires so that it will be heard by the listener at the other end. He calls the instrument a 'telephone,' which is obviously intended to imitate the word 'telegraph,' and to win the confidence of those who know the success of the latter instrument without understanding the principles on which it is based. Well-informed people know that it is impossible to transmit the human voice over the wires as may be done with dots and dashes and signals of the Morse code, and that, were it possible to do so, the

thing would be of no practical value. The authorities who apprehended this criminal are to be congratulated, and it is to be hoped that his punishment will be prompt and fitting, that it may serve as an example to other conscienceless schemers who enrich themselves at the expense of their fellow creatures."

As we consider our state of mind today when we hear of almost unbelievable inventions and discoveries, we wonder that we have come so far within the lifetime of hundreds of thousands of old people now alive. Not only has speedy transportation been invented, but it has been invented speedily. Not only has quick communication been made possible, but it has been made possible quickly—compared with the whole age of the world.

What does all this mean? To quote the familiar prophecy, it means that men are running to and fro, and knowledge is being increased.

3. The third sign is "The dark day." St. Matthew 24:29 says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

"Those days" refer to the 1260 years of political religion and persecution, from 538 to 1798 A. D. On May 19, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled. The darkness came on at ten o'clock in the evening and continued until the middle of the next night. It is the day many authorities speak of as the "dark day."

4. The fourth sign is "The falling stars."

This prophecy was fulfilled November 13, 1833. Professor Olmsted, a teacher in Yale College, says the day was made memorable by shooting stars which were more magnificent than any hitherto recorded. Professor Simon Newcomb said it was the most remarkable exhibition he had ever observed.

5. The fifth sign is "Wars and rumors of wars."

"Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: . . . nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." St. Matthew 24:6, 7.

Armageddon is not far in the future.

"I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother." Haggai 2:22.

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause Thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full." Joel 3:9-13.

"The valley of Je-hosh'a-phat" means the valley of judgment. It is plain from this that the day of the Lord is near. "The nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged." Revelation 11:18.

6. The sixth sign is Restlessness and abounding crime.

"Iniquity shall abound." St. Matthew 24:12. This is fulfilled in the great crime wave sweeping the civilized world. (Read 2 Timothy 3:1-6, 13.) In line with the moral trend of the times, Madame Collette Willys of Paris, a brilliant writer, openly advocates polygamy. "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5.

Jesus said, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; . . . even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:28, 30.

Will Durant, our American philosopher, says, "Morals, which change so slowly, are changing today like clouds before the wind. Customs and institutions older than human memory melt under our eyes as if they were superficial habits, recently acquired and easily forgotten."

In the United States, every five years more people meet violent deaths in the ordinary pursuits of life than did the American forces during World War I.

7. The seventh great sign is in nature—Pestilences, storms, and earthquakes.

"Great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." St. Luke 21:11.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science has published a record from the beginning of the fourteenth century

of the Christian Era to the present which will show us the number of earthquakes in each century. A summary of it is as follows:

Fourteenth century		137
Fifteenth	"	174
Sixteenth	"	253
Seventeenth	"	678
Eighteenth	"	640
Nineteenth	"	2,119

A press report says, "In 1913 a total of one hundred eighty-eight periods of ten years each had passed into history since Christ's prophecy of wars and earthquakes, and famines and pestilences [see St. Luke 21:10, 11]; but in one of these one hundred eighty-eight decades had occurred, all in the same decade, the worst in history of each of these terrible scourges. Then came the one hundred eighty-ninth decade and with it—

"First, the worst *war* the world had ever seen, costing ten million lives and over two hundred billion dollars.

"Second, the worst *earthquakes* in human history—the one in China during December, 1920, which literally shook the globe and carried suddenly into eternity a quarter of a million lives; and the one at Tokyo in 1923 which was the most destructive of property of any earthquake on record.

"Third, the worst *famine* 'the world has hitherto known'—that of Russia, in which millions perished miserably through starvation and 'added millions through starvation plus disease.'

"Fourth, one of the worst *pestilences* the world has ever known—the Spanish influenza—exacting a toll of full twelve million lives. In the short space of twelve weeks nearly six million people died."

8. The eighth sign of Christ's coming is economic and social, concerning capital and labor and the great red revolution.

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth." James 5:1-4.

Since 1914 we have witnessed hoarding, profiteering, coveting of luxuries, which evils have caused overproduction, stock market crashes, and unemployment—bringing discontent and despair to multitudes. We see a great conflict shaking the world in economic matters, as God said it would. “Billionarea,” an article from the *Ladies’ Home Journal*, speaks of the unprecedented gathering of riches and of the manner some live in pleasure here in America.

What advice comes to Christians? Here it is in James 5:8, “Be ye . . . patient; . . . for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh,” saith the Lord!

9. The ninth sign is “Distress of nations.”

“There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations.” St. Luke 21:25.

Everybody knows this is true. The great statesmen of the world struggle with the problem of war and peace, but the only true world peace is the coming of the Prince of Peace. When Jesus comes He will bring peace.

“There can be no peace in this age of bloodshed,
Of strife and hatred and deep distrust;
The bow and the spear shall not be broken,
The sword in the scabbard shall never rust.

“Though kings take counsel and statesmen promise,
Though people with people a pact shall make,
They can sign no truce they will not sunder
And swear no oath they will not break.

“There can be no peace till the King of glory
Comes down to earth from the heavens above
To rule the world with a rod of iron,
To judge in justice, to reign in love;

“Till the throne of David is set in Zion,
And all the kingdoms of earth are one;
No peace till His righteousness shall flourish;
No peace till the will of God is done.”

—*Author Unknown.*

Then there will be no more selfishness, no more immorality. When we see these signs we should “lift up” our heads, for our “redemption draweth nigh.” St. Luke 21:28.

10. The tenth sign is The rise of Spiritualism, sometimes called spiritism. This is a sign of the Lord’s coming.

"In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy." 1 Timothy 4:1, 2.

God prohibited and condemned Spiritualism in Bible times. "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them." Leviticus 19:31. I will read also from Deuteronomy 18:10-12. "There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord."

These same "spirits of devils" gather the nations to the last battle, the Battle of Armageddon. "They are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Revelation 16:14, 16. Spiritualism is an outstanding sign of the times.

11. The eleventh sign (notice this) is Prevailing unbelief in the church. Jesus spoke of the departure from the faith when He asked, "Shall He find faith on the earth?" St. Luke 18:8.

The ominous thing is that He left this question unanswered! The apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:3, 4, "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Notice, too, what the apostle Peter says in 2 Peter 3:3. "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts." There is a great movement among religious teachers to deny the inspiration of the Bible; to deny the atonement of Jesus Christ, and to drift off into pagan philosophy. It is time to rally round the standard of God. "Our work is godless, our homes are godless, our pleasures are godless, our hearts also are godless," says Rabbi Franklin.

It is time, dear friends, for us to seek God! Some of you are weary and troubled; you have made an effort and failed. I appeal to you, turn again to the great Book of God! Give yourself to God and prepare to meet Him in peace when He comes!

12. The twelfth sign is The gospel to all nations. In describing the signs of His second coming to His disciples on the Mount of Olives, Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." St. Matthew 24:14.

That is the greatest sign of all. The gospel of the kingdom—what a wonderful subject! It deals with the King, who will take His kingdom when He comes. "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." St. Matthew 25:31.

So we shall see Him when He comes. He will sit upon His throne. In 2 Peter we read that many shall scoff at the proclamation of the second coming of Christ. No one ever scoffs at something he has not heard about. The reason a great world-wide scoff will go up is that *a great message* is going to the world—the great message of the second coming of Christ. When people laugh and scoff at the message they are constituting a sign that we are living down in the time of the end. Jesus is coming, and coming soon! "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." St. Matthew 24:14.

In Revelation 14 a great threefold message is brought to view as the closing proclamation of the gospel to be delivered to the world before the coming of Jesus. The prophet, then seeing His coming, describes it as follows:

"I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle." Revelation 14:14.

This being true, what is there to do? St. Matthew 28:19, 20 says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

EVANGELIZE!

Give us a watchword for the hour,
A thrilling word, a word of power—
A battle cry, a flaming breath
That calls to conquest or to death.
A word to rouse the church from rest
To heed her Master's high behest.
The call is given: Ye hosts, arise!
Our watchword of Evangelize!
The glad Evangel now proclaim
Through all the earth, in Jesus' Name!
This word is ringing through all the skies,
 Evangelize! Evangelize!
To dying men, a fallen race,
Make known the gift of gospel grace.
The world that now in darkness lies,
 Evangelize! Evangelize!

Many shall come then from earthly wanderings to the celestial homes—from dens and prisons here to joys and mansions there! They shall strike the instruments of heavenly melody and awaken the harp notes of enduring joy. Then we can truly say, as we look on the least of all the redeemed throng, "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." St. Matthew 6:29.

Will you prepare to welcome the King? God bless you every one!



A little aid,
Just here and there,
Removes from life
Much toil and care.